Saipan Tribune Saipan Tribune THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

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OPINION METER This week's poll:

Do you support re-evaluating the **CNMI's political** relationship with the **United States?**

Let your voice be heard! Go to www.saipantribune.com to cast your vote.

NSIDE

NATION



A missing man is reunited with his family after the publication of a ➤ PAGE 14

FOCUS



Barack Obama's presidency is beset by fits and starts in Year 5.

➤ PAGE 17

LIFE & STYLE



Stars crack jokes and ham it up at the Palm Springs Film Festival. ➤ PAGE 20



Gov. Eloy S. Inos holds his first Cabinet meeting for 2014 on Capital Hill yesterday, setting goals that include completing unfinished and moving new capital improvement projects, continued destination enhancement for tourism, requesting proposals for renewable energy integration to help lower utility costs, and a revamp of the CW funds distribution so that more will be used for on-the-job-training of as many U.S. workers as possible in the private sector, among other

GOVERNOR'S FIRST CABINET MEETING FOR 2014 TARGETS PROJECT ROLLOUT

Inos to redistribute CW funds use

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

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ov. Eloy S. Inos said in his first Cabinet meeting for 2014 yesterday that he wants a redistribution of millions of dollars in Commonwealth-only

worker funds so that more will go into paying the actual on-the-job training salaries of U.S. workers in the private sector and less into the Public School System and Northern Marianas College where results may be harder to come by. See CW on Page 4

>> More on-jobtraining salary of **US** workers, less 'academics'

>> Budget law changes eyed for redistribution of funds

'Why not ask voters directly on political status?'

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

Instead of forming a \$100,000 commission to find out whether people still want to maintain the CNMI's political relationship with the United States under the Covenant, "why not ask the voters directly through an initiative and move from there?" according to Rep. Tony Sablan (Ind-Saipan).

"They are doing it backwards," Sablan told Saipan Tribune yesterday.

If most voters are satisfied with the CNMI-U.S. relationship, "then we give it a rest."

This saves the CNMI time, effort, and See VOTERS on Page 4

CHC incurs over \$500K monthly utility cost

By MONETH G. DEPOSA

The Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. has disclosed that the public hospital incurs over \$500,000 in the hospital's growing arrears with CUC, the monthly utilities, of which only half is being

"CHCC pays only monwealth Utilities Corp. half of monthly consumption

paid each month to the Com-

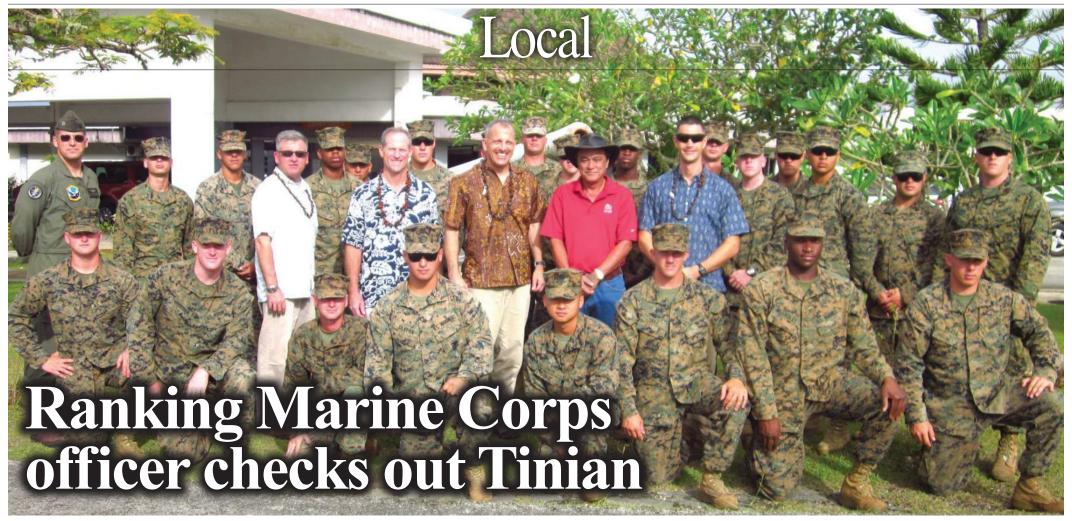
Interim corporation CEO Esther Muña told Saipan Tribune, however, that despite

See CHC on Page 4

Hiring of more CHC nurses moves at snail's pace. PAGE 3 3-day fire, dry weather cause limited water supply. PAGE 5



2 TUESDAY, JANUARY 7, 2014 SAIPAN TRIBUNE



U.S. Marine Corps Maj. Gen. Michael G. Dana, director for Strategic Planning and Policy, U.S Pacific Command, visited Tinian on Sunday morning, Jan. 5, to meet with Tinian Mayor Ramon Dela Cruz, to view the facilities at Tinian West Field International Airport, Tinian Harbor, and Tinian's leased lands.

Dana happened to arrive just as the last of the Marine Air Group 12 Marines were leaving, after having loaded the last their equipment used during Operation Forager Fury II.

During a luncheon meeting, the mayor expressed his desire to work with the Navy and the Marine Corps to reach a suitable agreement on how much military activity the small island could actually absorb. Coming on top of the visit of Brig.

Gen. Steven L. Basham, director of Strategy, Plans, and Programs, Headquarters Pacific Air Forces, Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, Hawaii, everyone at the table expressed optimism that a successful plan can be created. (PR)

U.S. Marine Corps Maj. Gen. Michael G. Dana, center, director for Strategic Planning and Policy, U.S Pacific Command, has his picture taken with Tinian Mayor Ramon Dela Cruz; Maj. Chris Merrill, USMC, Operations Officer Marine Corps Activity Guam; Rear Adm. Tilghman D. Payne, commander, Joint Region Marianas; Colonel P. J. Zimmerman, commanding officer, Marine Corps Activity Guam, and last of the Marine Air Group 12 Marines that participated in Operation Forager Fury II on Tinian. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Effective rate review office to enhance regulatory framework for ACA in CNMI

The CNMI Office of the Insurance Commissioner is one step closer to becoming an effective rate review office for health insurance carriers and providers in the CNMI. Rep. Edmund S. Villagomez has pre-filed House Bill 18-159, "To amend the Commonwealth Insurance Act of 1983...to provide for a premium rate review process...

"The filing of this bill is a milestone for us, as we have been working diligently with Commerce since early this year to get this bill together so as to provide their office with clarity on the authorization to review health insurance rates in the CNMI," said Villagomez.

Under the new federal health care law, all health insurance carriers are required to file their insurance rates and get approval from the states/territories and U.S. Department of Health and Human Services before they are used. Currently, under the CNMI law, all rates are file-anduse with the exception of tariff rates (Workers Compensation and Automobile rates). House Bill 18-159 provides the Insurance Commissioner with authorization and framework necessary for the CNMI Rate Review Office to become "effective" under definition and guidance of the Affordable Care Act. The Rate Review Office is a federally funded program, through a federal grant award from HHS.

"In essence, this bill provides the proper regulatory framework for rate review under the Office of the Insurance Commissioner to determine whether rate increases or filings are deemed as reasonable or unreasonable, a much needed process that will be informative and transparent to all carriers and issuers, as well as to the consumers—giving them the opportunity to comment on all future rate review filings," said Brien Sers Nicholas Jr., the newly hired project manager for the Rate Review Office.

The ACA has been commonly referred to as a three-legged stool, meaning that, for the ACA to function properly, all three legs must be put into place. This includes the individual and employer mandates, and the market reforms. Of the three, only the market reform extends to the territories. The rate review process is a requirement under the market reforms. The ACA mandated pre-filing of rates for 2014 and beyond, and the CNMI health insurance carriers and/or issuers are subjected to the same federal law. With the new market reform requirements in place, health insurance carriers in the CNMI are required to file first with the CNMI Office of the Insurance Commissioner before implementing or charging their fees.

"Throughout this year, the carriers voiced their concerns, threatened to pull out from the CNMI insurance market, and warned of significant rate increases as the extension of ACA provisions to the territories are unbalanced," said

Kaitlyn R. Neises-Mocanu, consumer advocacy officer under the CAP Office. "The ACA is about affordability and availability, and now that availability is guaranteed by federal law, we need to work toward bringing the best and most affordable health insurance product to our citizens and the rate review process is a gap we need to fill."

The CNMI OIC, working

closely with House legal counsel Joe Taijeron, has identified other areas requiring regulations, such as the handling of individual polices and small group plans, financial examinations, market conducts, solvency review, amongst others, that are under review.

"Overall, this bill is not only about complying with the ACA, the rate review process is an important component for the insurance division," said Commerce Secretary and Insurance Commissioner Sixto K. Igisomar. "This bill is the first step toward becoming an ACA effective rate review office and toward becoming an NAIC [National Association of Insurance Commissioners]accredited CNMI Department by 2020."

The Department of Commerce will hold a town hall

Care Act tomorrow, Jan. 8, 2014, from 5:30pm to 7pm at the American Memorial Park theater. Representatives will discuss the background of the ACA in the CNMI as well as where we are currently regarding implementation and future implementation plans. Questions and comments from the public will also be taken. (Office of the Governor)

meeting on the Affordable

2 men arrested in separate domestic violence cases

An intoxicated man beat up his wife for refusing to have sex with him while another man choked his common-law wife in front of their 1-year-old son, in separate domestic violence incidents over the weekend on Saipan, police said.

arrested for assault and battery and disturbing the peace, while Patrick Camacho Lizama, 24, was apprehended for assault and battery, interfering with domestic violence report, and disturbing the peace.

Ayuyu's bail was set at \$125 cash while Lizama's was at \$225 cash.

Police said Ayuyu's wife sustained abrasions and contusions around her neck and left knee, and she complained of neck pain and headaches.

Lizama's common-law wife refused medical treatment. A responding police officer did not observe visible signs of injuries on her, police said.

Police detective Therese S. Kintoki stated in her report that a police officer responded to an apartment in Koblerville on Saturday at 10:50am, after receiving a call about a disturbance.

Kintoki said the officer met Jesus Reyes Ayuyu, 55, was with a woman who was limping on her left leg and who stated that her husband, Ayuyu, beat her up so she ran away. Ayuyu's wife appeared emotional and her pants were dirty and torn. She was wearing only one slipper. Ayuyu's wife got into the police's vehicle and complained of pain in the head. Medics later arrived and brought her to the Commonwealth Health Center.

> Ayuyu was later arrested. The wife told police that Ayuyu slapped her in the face and head five times. He then allegedly grabbed her and threw her to the bed. Later in the morning, when the wife got up to get

ready for work, Ayuyu held her to prevent her from leaving, so she ran away and managed to reach Kevin's Apartment in Koblerville where she called for police's assistance. The wife told police that the Ayuyu had slapped her before but this incident was the worst.

In Lizama's case, Kintoki stated that a police officer arrived at a residence in Kannat Tabla on Saturday night after receiving a call about a domestic violence. The officer met Lizama's common-law wife, who was crying and appeared traumatized.

The wife told police that Lizama was very drunk and forcefully took their 1-yearold son from her by choking her neck. The wife said she was scared for the safety of their son because Lizama was intoxicated and driving a Jeep Cherokee. The officer called all police units via radio to be

on the lookout for the vehicle at a possible location in San Vicente. Two police officers arrived at Lizama's house in San Vicente where they found the vehicle.

Lizama's mother later returned the baby to the defendant's common-law wife. Lizama was then arrested.

Lizama allegedly choked his wife's neck and grabbed their son away from her. When she took a cordless phone on the table to call 911, the defendant allegedly grabbed the phone away and left with their 1-yearold son.

The wife told police that whenever Lizama gets drunk he can't control himself and becomes violent. She said Lizama, who also choked her six months ago in front of their 3-year-old daughter, is currently undergoing counseling for substance and alcohol abuse. (Ferdie de la Torre)

Hiring of additional CHC nurses moves at snail's pace

By MONETH G. DEPOSA

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The hiring of more nurses for the Commonwealth Health Center is moving at a snail's pace, with the total nursing workforce unchanged at 168 as of this week. The sluggish rate is due to the difficulty of finding qualified individuals on island. not because of funding shortages, which is usually the case of other public agencies.

"We have some who are being recruited and the paper work and contracts are routing. ... We might be up to 170 by end of January," he told Saipan Tribune.

170 is far from the ideal ratio for the public hospital, which used

"We're still short-staffed

Law firm sues Arctic Circle Air Co.

A law firm is suing Arctic Circle Air Co. in Superior Court for allegedly failing and refusing to pay \$34,626.34 in unpaid legal services.

The law firm of O'Connor Berman Dotts and Banes, through attorney David G. Banes, sued Arctic Circle Air for breach of contract.

The law firm is demanding \$34,626.34 in general damages, plus interest at the rate of 9 percent per annum, additional attorney's fees, and court costs.

Banes stated in the complaint that their law firm was engaged by Arctic Circle Air in August 2011 to render legal services and act as its counsel.

As part of the agreement, Banes said Arctic Circle Air will pay their law firm attorney's monthly fees and costs in the course of the legal representation.

The lawyer said the airline company also agreed to reimburse plaintiff for all out-ofpocket expenses, including filing fees, court costs, travel expenses and duplication charges.

Banes said their law firm in-

voiced the company monthly for attorneys' fees and costs expended on defendant's behalf.

The lawyer said that Arctic Circle incurred an unpaid balance totaling \$44,626.34, through May 2013, not including interest due.

Banes said the company made only the initial payment of \$10,000 and that despite repeated promises to pay the next installment, defendant has "neglected, failed and refused to pay the second installment."

The law firm, through attorney Michael W. Dotts, represented Arctic Circle Air in its lawsuit against the Rhode Island-based Independence Bank over the bank's demand for payment of \$155,000 in "break-up fees."

In May 2013, Arctic Circle and Independence Bank, reached a settlement on the lawsuit.

Under the agreement, Arctic Circle agreed to dismiss the lawsuit and pay the bank \$70,000. For its part, the bank agreed to release its liens on Arctic Circle's aircraft. (Ferdie de la Torre)

"The Foundation" looks at

the history of the provision

that limits land ownership in

the CNMI to persons of North-

starting 6:30pm last night but will have replays on KSPN

Channel 2 on Jan. 7 and 8, at

The second part of the series

is titled "Today's Perspective"

and panelists include Lorenzo

DLG Cabrera, Rep. George N.

Camacho, and Saipan Cham-

ber of Commerce president

look at the impacts of Article

12 today and will air on KSPN

Channel 2 at 6:30pm on Jan. 13,

and last part of the series. Panel-

ists are Vincent J. Seman, Caro-

lyn P. Hosono, and House vice

speaker Francisco S. Dela Cruz

looks at the future Article 12

and will air on KSPN Chan-

nel 2 at 6:30pm on Jan. 20,

The council said the series

was made possible by a "We

the People" grant awarded by

the National Endowment for the

Humanities. (Mark Rabago)

"The Future" will be the third

"Today's Perspective" will

the same time.

Alex A. Sablan.

14, and 15, 2014.

21, and 22, 2014.

Humanities Council airs Article 12 talks

The Northern Marianas Humanities Council has produced a series of panel discussions on Article 12 that will air on KSPN Channel 2 starting this month.

"Article 12: Land Ownership in the Northern Mariana Islands" is moderated by Robert T. Torres and consists of three one-hour panel discussions focusing on Article 12 of the CNMI Constitution.

The series aims to provide an informed and objective presentation of facts and a variety of viewpoints relating to land alienation in the CNMI.

Although there is no way to cover all of the complexities of Article 12 in a three-hour program, the council said this series provides basic information that will hopefully encourage viewers to discuss and consider this important topic with their families, friends, and colleagues.

"It is intended for anyone wishing to learn more about the history, effects, and possible future of Article 12."

The first part of the three-part series is titled "The Foundation" and the panelists include Marianas Political Status Commission members Vicente N. Santos and Pedro A. Tenorio.

This was confirmed by hospital administrator Jesse Tudela, who targets to have at least 170 nurses by the end of the month.

He conceded, though, that to employ 225 nurses.

and nursing is probably the most critical need right now. There's a high turnover rate and there's not enough on island to fill all the vacancies we need," said Tudela.

He pointed at the need to seek more medical professionals from outside the Commonwealth to fill this vital gap at the Commonwealth Health Center.

When asked if the corporation intends to fill all 225 nursing positions, Tudela said: "Yes, we intend to fill them all because it's budgeted. The challenge for us now is where to find them."

Besides its shortage of nurses, more staff are needed for ancillary services such as x-ray technicians, physical therapists, pharmacists, and others, he said.

Tudela credited the corpora-

tion management, however, for successfully reducing the number of vacancies in the organization as a result of its aggressive recruitment efforts.

Since early last year, CHC posted a huge drop in its nursing workforce, with at least 25 positions that needed to be filled as soon as possible.

To date, the public hospital has 168 full-time nurses. Saipan Tribune learned that at CHC, there are 112 registered nurses and 21 licensed practical nurses. Its nursing assistants/nursing



aids number 23.

Because of the lack of more nurses, CHCC's overtime costs have been increasing, averaging more than 2,000 hours and growing.

The nursing shortage is also

attributed to the increasing volume of patients at the hospital.

In an earlier interview with CHCC nursing director Leticia Reyes, she told Saipan Tribune that the public hospital critically needs "experienced nurses," specifically for sections like labor and delivery, intensive care unit, and others.





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US EPA backs DEQ, CRM merger

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency not only backs the merger of the Division of Environmental Quality and the Coastal Resources Management but also describes it as "unquestionably a precedent-setting move and will undoubtedly bring recognition to the CNMI in their continuing role as a leader in the Pacific territories."

"There are no other states or territories in which the EPA and NOAA [National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration] programs come under one leader. This will be a first, and it can only be good," said U.S. EPA's CNMI program manager Carl L. Goldstein, on behalf of U.S. EPA Pacific Islands Office manager John McCarroll.

This, as the CNMI House Committee on Judiciary and Government Operations is recommending to the full House to reject Gov. Eloy S. Inos' Nov. 12 executive order merging DEQ and CRM.

The JGO believes that the reorganization would result in loss of funds. But the governor and DEQ director Frank Rabauliman said this is not the case.

The Legislature has 60 days from Nov. 12 to either modify or reject the governor's executive order, or the merger becomes effective after Jan. 12.

But rejecting or modifying the executive order requires a majority vote of the members of each of the chambers of the Legislature. Rep. John Paul Sablan (Cov-Saipan), the only JGO panel member who wanted to recommend letting the full House decide on the governor's executive order, said a statement from both EPA and NOAA as grantor agencies regarding the merger would carry much weight as to how the Legislature should decide on the matter. But his suggestion was defeated.

So far, only U.S. EPA's statement of support has been obtained.

EPA's Goldstein said the impact on EPA and NOAA funding "can only be positive."

"EPA and NOAA have joined together in the effort to protect the coral reefs and marine waters of the U.S. and the territo-

ries. By having their respective territorial agencies under one management and leadership, it will undoubtedly provide the foundation for opportunities for additional funding," he said.

He also said EPA "cannot say enough good things about the move."

"In my conversation with NOAA, they also think the merger of CRM and DEQ will substantially improve CNMI's overall management and protection of environmental resources," Goldstein said in a letter to DEQ's Rabauliman.

Goldstein said in Rabauliman's tenure as DEQ director, he has clearly demonstrated to EPA his "dedication and knowledge of the management of EPA and CRM programs, by continually meeting EPA's strategic objectives and goals, and CNMI environmental

provide updates on these refer-

ral cases during the follow-up

process, therefore the amount

potentially recoverable remains

unchanged.

and public health priorities, which are implemented through your EPA consolidated grant."

having very capable managers and staff (in this case I can only speak of DEQ), your community federal granter agencies

"We also understand that Fran [Castro] and yourself and DEQ have had substantial involvement with making the CRM program successful over these many years. With both EPA and CRM under your leadership and

having very capable managers and staff (in this case I can only speak of DEQ), your community, federal grantor agencies, and the CNMI environmental resource program, will experience a well orchestrated reliable, dedicated, and efficient service," Goldstein added. (Haidee V. Eugenio)

VOTERS

From Page 1

what Sablan describes as a "conservative" amount of \$100,000 to fund a commission and hire people for the commission.

"If most of the voters are not satisfied, then that's the time you create a commission to see what kind of other relationship they want," Sablan added.

Sablan, a former CNMI immigration director, was one of only three House members who voted against the bill creating a Second Marianas Political Status Commission that would examine "whether the people desire continuing in a political union" with the U.S. under the Covenant signed almost 38 years ago.

The other two were Speaker Joseph Deleon Guerrero (Ind-Saipan) and vice speaker Frank Dela Cruz (Ind-Saipan).

Gov. Eloy S. Inos had cautioned against a "shotgun approach" to raising issues with the United States over immigration and military plans to use more islands for live-fire training, saying that changing the CNMI's political relationship with the most powerful country in the world is "a long shot."

The governor instead sug-

gests that Covenant Section 902 negotiation is the right way to go about it.

"We're in for the long haul," Inos said of the relationship between the CNMI and the United States, although he acknowledges some members of the Legislature and some community members' "frustrations" with the U.S. But he said the CNMI needs to be "smarter" in approaching the issues.

The political status commission bill is now with the CNMI Senate.

Senate President Ralph Torres (R-Saipan) separately said yesterday that the bill will undergo committee review first.

No action on the bill is expected in the next Senate session unless a committee report is completed before then.

On March 24 this year, the Northern Marianas will mark its 38-year political relationship with the United States. U.S. President Gerald Ford signed on March 24, 1976, a joint congressional resolution approving a mutually negotiated "Covenant to Establish a Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands in Political Union with the United States."

That paved the way for Northern Marianas residents to become U.S. citizens.

OPA: Delinquent audit recommendations up 14 pct., none of \$6.1M recovered

The Office of the Public Auditor said yesterday that the number of "delinquent" or at least 180-day-old recommendations in audit reports rose by 14 percent or from 25 in 2012 to 29 in the first half of 2013, and none of 33 audit recommendations tracked during the period was closed.

Moreover, no single cent was recovered from January to June 2013 out of the \$6.1 million in potentially recoverable money from agencies and individuals over improperly paid or overpaid contracts and unpaid land leases, among other things.

Agencies with delinquent audit recommendations included the Office of the Attorney General, Commonwealth Ports Authority, and the departments of Finance, Public Lands, and Public Safety.

Recommendations were classified as delinquent as OPA was

not informed by these agencies within the last 180 days of any corrective action taken to implement OPA's recommendations.

As of June 30, 2013, audit recommendations in seven audit reports were referred to the OAG for legal action to recover monies improperly expended. This involves some \$2.6 million in potentially recoverable money.

OPA said the OAG did not

OPA also identified potential recoveries of some \$3.5 million in eight audit reports addressed to various agencies. During its

to various agencies. During its semi-annual follow-up for Jan. 1 to June 30, 2013, OPA did not receive updates from the OAG and Finance. (*Haidee V. Eugenio*)

CW From Page 1

Redistributing CW funds entails amending the current CNMI budget law.

This is because the fiscal year 2014 budget law appropriates \$500,000 each to PSS and NMC and \$400,000 to Northern Marianas Trade Institute "or other appropriate job training program."

With more CW funds going into this "targeted" approach, private sector employers won't be burdened with added payroll costs just to train and pay U.S. workers' salaries for up to six months or longer, Inos said.

After six months, for example, private sector employers would have to decide whether to continue hiring the same U.S. worker they helped train.

The Inos administration is taking a more aggressive approach to prepare and place more U.S. workers in the private sector at a time when some 12,000 foreign workers might have to exit the CNMI either after Dec. 31, 2014, or 2019.

U.S. Labor Secretary Thomas Perez is expected to decide soon whether to extend the CW program beyond 2014.

The governor said the new approach to placing as many U.S. workers possible in jobs is similar to the federally funded Workforce Investment Agency program; only in this case, CW funds will be used.

CW funds are derived from the \$150 fee that CNMI employers pay for every foreign worker they petition. U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services remits these money to the CNMI government.

Inos said the CNMI may have

received \$1.8 million to \$1.9 million in 2013 alone. But since end-2011, the amount would have been double or triple that.

As of yesterday, the Department of Finance has yet to release actual CW fund remittances covering the period from 2011 to present.

"I want this thing targeted for that kind of program and maybe reduce the amount of money that's going to the academic side because there's less guarantee...yeah we teach people at the college or PSS' but there's no guarantee that these people would actually go and work with the private sector. But if we do a targeted program, they are there already," the governor said in an interview after convening his Cabinet for the first time in 2014 yesterday.

CNMI Labor Secretary Edith DeLeon Guerrero separately said the 2014 goal is to increase employment of U.S. citizens, permanent residents or "green card" holders, and those from the Federated States of Micronesia. Collectively, they are referred to as U.S. workers.

"The jobs are there," DeLeon Guerrero said, adding that it is a matter of training and employing the available U.S. workers.

Over 10,000 foreign workers that the CNMI economy has relied upon may have to exit the CNMI after the end of the transitional CW program.

Currently, there are not enough U.S. workers to fill all these jobs because of the sheer number of positions available plus lack of training for many of the U.S. workers available.

The government and private sector are working together to prepare and hire more U.S. workers at a time when the tourism-based economy is on the

upswing once again after years of weak performance.

Inos wants to put to better use the CW funds that private sector employers pay.

"That's why I want to modify that program. Give some to PSS, give some to NMC and at least they can help prepare these people to be job-ready, teach about [work] ethic, employment, [teach] them how to go for the job interview. The other component which should be the bigger component is go ahead and place these U.S. eligible workers down to take the jobs at the private sector occupied by nonresident workers," he said.

The governor said that, just like the WIA program, they would require a periodic review by the employer with the commitment that if the U.S. workers performed well on their onthe-job-training, they would be hired permanently.

Inos wants the CW-funded on-the-job-training program to start as soon as possible.

"I've asked the secretary of Labor to really look into that because we can't wait until after the fifth year, assuming we have the extension. We can't wait forever; we got to start doing something," he added.

He added that the CNMI can't continue to use the argument that "people are not trained or people don't know how to work."

Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (Ind-MP) has also been demanding accountability and performance standards on the \$150 CW fee that's supposed to train and get U.S. workers employed, now that remittances from US-CIS have reached millions.

Among other things, Sablan wants information on how NMC and PSS are using the

CW money they have gotten—and will get annually—as long as there are foreign workers under the CW program.

The delegate also seeks data whether any U.S. worker who has gotten training funded by the CW fee has gotten a job.

2014 goals

The governor met with some 20 members of his Cabinet and other government officials for more than three hours on Capital Hill yesterday to look back at the completed and unfinished projects from 2013, with the goal of completing them in 2014.

Public Works Secretary Martin Sablan and the governor said these are in addition to new capital improvement projects, many of them now under architectural and engineering design phase.

The administration looks forward to the completion of the ongoing Isa Drive or Back Road construction project, among other things.

Inos said the government is now drafting regulations for the operations of the new Marpi public cemetery, which has yet to be used some two years since it was built.

Department of Lands and Natural Resources Secretary Arnold I. Palacios, in a separate interview, said DLNR has been given the added responsibility of overseeing the operations of the new Marpi public cemetery.

He said DLNR also has responsibility over submerged lands.

The governor also reiterated a newly-issued request for proposals for the assessment of geothermal resource on Saipan, and the soon-to-be-issued RFP for the integration of renewable energy monthly

corporation does not dispute its unpaid obligation, which now stands at over \$9 million and growing.

CHC

From Page 1

CUC sued the hospital, along with the central government and the Public School System, in early December for arrears totaling \$18.8 million. The bulk of the amount, some \$9.6 million, is owed by the healthcare corporation, representing unpaid bills with prejudgment interest.

Muna said the healthcare corporation has been unable to pay the utility agency in full since 2011, citing the hospital's strained financial resources since becoming a corporation in 2011.

"We're not disputing the bill. We're paying CUC but not the amount they desire for us to pay," Muna told *Saipan Tribune*.

Since becoming a corporation, CHCC relies heavily on its revenues and collections for its daily operation. This is far from what the health agency used to get when it received operational funding from the local budget to the tune of \$37 million every fiscal year.

According to Muña, the hospital is only able to pay CUC \$250,000 a month, equivalent to just half of the hospital's actual

monthly bill.

Muña disclosed that the corporation has a priority list of expenditures, and that includes paying little by little the "old accounts" owed its various vendors. Prior to Muña's assumption as CEO, payables to hospital vendors was at over \$5 million

"By early 2014, some of these old accounts will be paid off and there's going to be a reduction in monthly payments to these vendors. When we have that reduction, then we will have that money to spare for CUC. But right now, we're not yet in that position," said Muña.

She thinks the lawsuit filed against the hospital does "not make sense" since both CUC and CHCC are governmental instrumentalities.

Muña is also counting on the installation of a new energy-efficient air-conditioning system at the Commonwealth Health Center to save on utility costs. This project aims to upgrade the old system at the hospital and will be funded by CIP monies guaranteed by the Office of Insular Affairs.

Once installed, the new system is anticipated to bring down the energy consumption of the entire facility, thus reducing the utility cost for the corporation.

"Right now, our consumption is really high. We even asked CUC to waive the penalty [for us] but to no avail," said Muña.

3-day fire and dry weather cause limited water supply

REPORTER

Residents and commercial establishments in certain areas on Saipan will experience a limited water supply starting today due to a recent fire in Lower Base where a significant volume of water was used to douse the flames, according to the Commonwealth Utilities Corp.

This is in addition to the present dry weather being experienced on the island, hampering the utility agency's capacity to provide an adequate supply of water for all its customers.

CUC executive director Alan last for a few days.

(Middle Road) between the

Lots near new hotel project to be designated 'tourist resort'

By MONETH G. DEPOSA

More lots in Susupe are expected to be reclassified once the Legislature approves the recommendation of the Zoning Office to rezone 12 lots adjacent to a new hotel that will be developed on the site.

Zoning administrator Therese Ogumoro made the recommendation to rezone 12 lots in Susupe at the request of Saipan Surfrider LLC to reclassify three specific lots near its project site where it plans to develop a new hotel.

During the Zoning Board's meeting on Dec. 27, the three lots-along with nine otherswere decided to be rezoned from "village commercial" to "tourist resort."

Zoning Board chair Diego Blanco said the board looks forward to seeing further development on the sites, including road pavements and traffic light improvements, by the developer.

Present at the meeting was Mike Sablan, Triple J Enterprises vice president for finance and administration, who expressed the company's appreciation to the board's decision on its proposal.

The board's decision will now be transmitted to the Legislature for action.

According to Sablan, the three lots they want rezoned are located at the project site of the Surfrider Resort Spa and Beach. This is a 60-room hotel project at the site of the former Pacific Gardenia Hotel and the former Silver Hotel.

"The Surfrider project area encompasses a total of seven separate lots, four of which are already zoned 'tourist resort' and three zoned 'village commercial.' For consistency among all seven lots, we requested rezoning the three VC lots to TR so that the entire project area is TR. Our recommendation was fully supported by the fee simple landowners of the three lots," Sablan told Saipan Tribune, adding that the company has a long term leasehold interest in the lots.

As there are different zoning

W. Fletcher said yesterday that water customers on Capital Hill, Southern Garapan, Tanapag, and Lower Base will all be affected by the limited water service that may

He alerted customers in the areas specifically served by Capitsl Hill, Rabagau, and Puerto Rico water tanks. This limited water service will affect customers living in the following villages: Capital Hill, Wireless Hill, Mount Tapochau, Chalan Galadie and Southern Garapan from Chalan Pale Arnold Road

requirements for tourist resort and village commercial zone districts, Sablan explained that the consistency in zones would allow for better design integration of the various project components such as rooms, restaurants, parking, landscaping, swimming pool, beach club, spa, hotel gift shop, and

other amenities. Pursuant to zoning law, the rezoning is subject to approval by the Saipan and Northern Islands Legislative Delegation, which is the next step in the process.

As to other development projects in the Susupe area, Sablan said the company doesn't have any plans at this time.

According to Therese Ogumoro, in the event some landowners contest the rezoning decision of the Legislature, the property can then be taken out from the list of rezoned "tourist resort" areas.

Commonwealth Health Center traffic light to the Old Japanese Jail House and customers living along Beach Road from the Garapan Elementary School to the Marianas Eye Institute.

Fletcher said that customers in Tanapag and Lower Base will also be experiencing low water

"Despite CUC's best efforts to extend full time water service, the recent combination of a three-day fire, dry weather, and potential system leakage has resulted in the low production of water from the wells and springs that supply the Capital Hill, Rabagau, Puerto Rico tank. In addition, water technicians are currently assessing the supply issues and investigating the potential of pipeline ruptures causing the low supply," said Fletcher.

The fire that engulfed an abandoned junkyard in Lower Base started on Friday afternoon and was only put out Sunday by responding firefighters.

Fletcher told Saipan Tribune yesterday that "CUC expects two to three days to recover" depending on demand because fire units continue to draw a lot of water for fighting the fire. It is expected that hundreds of households and establishments may be affected by the limited supply.

"CUC will limit its water service for this area until the water supply source increases. CUC apologizes for this inconvenience and will continue to work on restoring services as soon as possible," according to Fletcher.

For questions and concerns, customers are encouraged to call the Water Division at 322-5030/31.

King gets 11 mos. jail time for using drugs again

vised release.

U.S. District Court for the term remaining on her super-NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona has revoked the supervised release of Kisha Lyn Masga King, who admitted to using illegal drugs again during her probation.

King was originally sentenced to three years of probation for her role in a conspiracy to pass counterfeit money in some stores.

At a hearing on Friday, Man-

MICHAEL A. WHITE, ESQ. F0122 THE LAW OFFICES OF MICHAEL A. WHITE, LLC POST OFFICE BOX 5222 SAIPAN, MARIANA ISLANDS 96950

TEL: (670) 234-6547

FAX: (670) 234-9537

ELLEN S. PITEG,

herein by reference.

open to the general public

shall govern the conduct of the sale.

ATTORNEYS FOR Plaintif

NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION,

glona sentenced King to 11 months in prison, the maximum

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE

SECOND AMENDED NOTICE OF SALE

issued by the Court in this matter on May 15, 2012, I will

sell, at public auction, to the highest bidder, on the terms

and conditions set forth hereinbelow, all of the right, title,

Lot No. 011 G 547, situated in Kagman III, Phase I, Saipan,

Northern Mariana Islands, containing an area of 800

square meters, more or less, as shown on the Division of

Lands and Surveys Official Cadastral Plat No. 011 G 11.

dated December 1, 1993, Commonwealth Recorder's File

No. 93-4179, the description therein being incorporated

Date, Time, and Place of Sale. The sale will be held on

Friday, January 24, 2014, at the hour of 1:30 p.m., at The

Law Offices of Michael A. White, LLC, Joeten Center,

Susupe, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands. The sale will be

Terms and Conditions of Sale. The Terms and

/s/MICHAEL A. WHITE, Auctioned

Conditions of Sale may be obtained from the undersigned, either prior to or at the sale. These terms and condition

and interest of Defendant in and to the following

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that, pursuant to an Order

Attorney Mark Scoggins, who appeared for King's courtappointed counsel, Matthew Smith, told the court that King would be admitting that she used methamphetamine or "ice" and marijuana on Nov. 8, 2013. Assistant U.S. attorney Garth

Backe moved to revoke the supervised release and asked the court to order King to serve 11 months in prison, with no supervised release to follow.

MICHAEL A. WHITE, ESQ. F0122 THE LAW OFFICES OF MICHAEL A. WHITE, LLC POST OFFICE BOX 5222 SAIPAN, MARIANA ISLANDS 96950 TEL: (670) 234-6547 FAX: (670) 234-9537 ATTORNEYS FOR Plaintiff IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE

COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

ALBERT I. REMOKET and

SECOND AMENDED NOTICE OF SALE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that, pursuant to an Orde issued by the Court in this matter on September 10, 2012 I will sell, at public auction, to the highest bidder, on the terms and conditions set forth hereinbelow, all of the right, title, and interest of Defendants in and to the following property: Lot No. 002 G 59, situated in Kagmar 968 square meters, more or less, as more particularly described on Drawing/Cadastral Plat No. 002 G 03 dated May 31, 1989, Commonwealth Recorder's File No 90-1900, the description therein being incorporate herein by reference

Date, Time, and Place of Sale. The sale will be held on Friday, January 24, 2014, at the hour of 1:30 p.m., at The Law Offices of Michael A. White, LLC, Joeten Center Susupe, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands. The sale will b open to the general public.

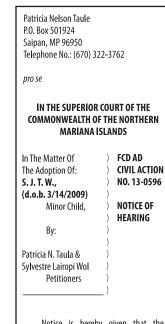
Terms and Conditions of Sale. The Terms and Conditions of Sale may be obtained from the undersigned either prior to or at the sale. These terms and condition shall govern the conduct of the sale.

/s/MICHAEL A. WHITE, Auctioned

U.S. Probation Officer Gregory Arriola informed the court on Friday that King has not complied with the condition of her probation as she admitted to using marijuana and "ice" on Nov. 8, 2013.

Arriola said that King submitted tampered specimens on eight separate occasions from Nov. 2 to Dec. 13, 2013.

King's probation has been revoked several times for using illegal drugs and other violations. (Ferdie de la Torre)



Notice is hereby given that the above-entitled matter is set for a hearing on January 13, 2014 at 1:30 p.m. in Courtroom 205A, before the Honorable Judge Kenneth L. Govendo.

Dated this 12th day of December, 2013.

> Patrick V. Diaz Clerk of Court /s/ Deputy Clerk of Court



DEA agents arrest suspected 'ice' distributor

istration agents arrested Fri- methamphetamine or "ice"

Drug Enforcement Admin- day a suspected distributor of on Saipan.

known as Ah Long, was served DEA filed in federal court a affidavit that a confidential Yuan Rong Zhao, 41, also with an arrest warrant after

criminal complaint charging him with one count of distribution of methamphetamine.

At a hearing on Friday afternoon, U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona agreed to unseal the case. Zhao appeared with court-appointed counsel Michael Dotts.

Zhao remains detained pending a detention hearing today, Tuesday.

DEA special agent Jacqueline R. Gordon stated in an die de la Torre)

source managed to buy \$400 worth of "ice" from Zhao outside the latter's residence in San Antonio on March 6, 2012. Gordon said their confidential source disclosed that Zhao has been distributing "ice" to customers at all hours of the day and night at his residence.

Zhao previously owned a vehicle but allegedly sold it to reduce the risk associated with delivering "ice." (Fer-

Application for leadership program extended until today

Pacific Century Fellows Marianas Chapter has extended to today the deadline for applicants who want to be part of the PCF Program's inaugural year.

According to Maggie Sablan, Tan Siu Lin Foundation manager, the original deadline for applicants to the leadership program was Dec. 31, 2013. However, since the deadline coincided with the holidays, the foundation decided to extend it another week.

'We have to decided to extend the deadline to Jan. 7th because of the holidays," she said in an email to Saipan Tribune.

Ten judges would interview the candidates for the leadership program on Jan. 18.

The non-profit Pacific Century Fellows Marianas Chapter was set up to build a more and candidates will be chosen effective and cohesive leadership that would enable some of the "best and brightest" to step up to assume major roles on the islands.

It is based on the Pacific Century Fellows Program in Hawaii, which was founded by

former Honolulu mayor Mufi Hannemann. The entire program is also modeled after the national White House Fellows program, with the intent of developing and bringing together strong community leaders to strategically tackle some of today's most pressing matters.

Candidates of the PCF Marianas Chapter Program must be between the ages of 25-45 years old from various areas of expertise (tourism, healthcare, government, education, military, law, small business, non-profit, etc).

They must demonstrate strong leadership, professionalism, and have a track record of active volunteerism and community service. Class size for the program year is limited, through a rigorous interview and selection process by a blue ribbon panel of judges.

For more information, call Sablan at 234-0609 Ext. 117 or send an email to administrator@pcf-marianas.com for details. (Mark Rabago)

Mendiola claims grand prize in SCS raffle

Marilyn "Jackie" Mendiola became a sort of minor celebrity on Tinian after Lady Luck smiled on her last Thursday by winning the grand prize of Saipan Computer Services, Inc.'s 2013 Customer Appreciation Raffle.

The 42-year-old Bank of Guam Tinian branch manager said that taking the top prize in the raffle was the farthest thing on her mind when she bought a laptop for herself and two tablets as Christmas gifts last month.

For the record, Mendiola purchased an Asus Notebook, two Asus Memo Pads, a flash drive, and other miscellaneous items worth more than \$1,200 when she stopped by and impulse-shopped at the Garapan computer store sometime before Christmas last year.

Mendiola said she originally wanted to purchase a new laptop online but decided against it because she didn't want to wait for weeks to get her new gadget.

On a weekend trip to Saipan where her husband is based, Mendiola swung by at SCS, Inc. on a whim in order to check out the prices of their laptop computers. A short while later, Mendiola left with the laptop of her dreams as well as two tablets she would be gifting to loved ones for Christmas.

She said she was sold with the Asus Notebook after finding out how lightweight, fast, and tricked out with



Saipan Computer Services, Inc.'s 2013 Customer Appreciation Raffle grand prize winner Marilyn "Jackie" Mendiola is flanked by SCS, Inc. staff Grace Delos Santos, left, and Lisa Marcelo Gomez Saturday at the computer retail and services store in Garapan. In front of them is the grand prize—an LG 55" Full HD 1080p LED Smart TV with soundbar.

new features it is.

Little did she know that her purchase that day would lead to bigger things less than a month later when SCS, Inc. general manager Jerry Tiu, assisted by Burger & Comer auditor Gary Bernardo, pulled out Mendiola's winning ticket in the company's raffle drawing on Jan. 2.

What's odd is that Mendiola thought of upgrading her family's 32" flat screen TV on the day of the raffle itself. So it came as a surprise to her when she received a text from SCS,

Inc. around 11am Thursday, asking her to call the company about their ongoing promotion.

While the text message gave her reason to believe she may have won in the raffle, never in her wildest dreams did Mendiola thought she'd hit pay dirt by winning the grand prize of an LG 55" Full HD 1080p LED Smart TV and sound bar.

She said the win is a special belated Christmas gift to her and her family and thanked SCS, Inc. and Jerry Tiu and her wife Kazuko, managing director for the company, for holding the customer appreciation raffle.

Mendiola said she already told SCS, Inc. staff that she will go on another shopping spree before Christmas 2014 for another shot at the company's customer appreciation raffle.

Aside from Mendiola, other big winners of the raffle were Edeng Siruma, Wilmer Sablan, and DeeDee Towai who won an Acer Aio Desktop PC, a Canon Rebel SLR camera, and an Apple iPad Air, respectively. (Mark Rabago)



PUBLIC NOTICE



In accordance with the "Open Government Act", the Public School System State Board of Education, through their Interagency Coordinating Council (ICC), is hereby serving notice to the general public that it will hold its ICC Meeting on Thursday, January 09, 2014, 9:00 am to 11:00 am at the Pacific Islands Club. This meeting is open to the public, interested individuals are welcome to attend.

AGENDA

- I. Call to Order
 - Roll Call
 - Presence of a Quorum
 - d. Adoption of Minutes

II. Coordinators Reports

- Final FFY 2012 Annual Performance Report
- **Grant Application**
- State Systemic Improvement Plan Process
- By-Laws Update
- Parents Night Results

III. Adjournment

In compliance with the American Disabilities Act (ADA), individuals who wish to attend this meeting, but require accessibility such as large print, sign language or interpreter, must call 237-3029/19. Several days' notice is necessary to allow organizers ample time to make necessary arrangements.

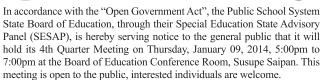
> /s/ Margaret Aldan Chairwoman

/S/ Robin L. Palacios Interim Coordinator, Early Intervention Program

Paid for by IDEA, Part B Funds



PUBLIC NOTICE



AGENDA

- **Preliminary Matters**
 - Roll Call
 - Presence of a Quorum Adoption of Agenda
 - d) Adoption of Minutes December 05, 2013
- **Annual Performance Report FFY 2012**
- Memorandum of Understanding
- a. Public School System and Office of Vocational Rehabilitation
- IV. **PSS SPED Hard to Fill Positions**
- House Legislation Scholarships a. Scholarship Status – Saipan, Rota, Tinian
- Appointment of New Members Status
- SESAP Roles Legislations Proposed
- VIII. Miscellaneous
- Adjournment

In compliance with the American Disabilities Act (ADA), individuals who wish to attend this meeting, but require accessibility such as large print or sign language interpreters must call 237-3029. Several days notice is necessary to allow organizers ample time to make necessary arrangements.

/S/ Dexter Apatang Chairperson

/S/ Suzanne Lizama Director, Special Education Program

Paid for by IDEA, Part B Funds



PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY **CNMI GOVERNMENT**

INVITATION TO BID

ITB NO.: ITB 14-DLNR/DFW-046 (ROTA)

SUBMISSION/OPENING DATE: JANUARY 30, 2014 TIME: 10:00 A.M.

"OFFICE SPACE LEASE FOR THE DEPT. OF LANDS AND NATURAL <u>RESOURCES, DIVISION OF FISH & WILDLIFE - ROTA BRANCH"</u> COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE PICKED-UP AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR, DIVISION OF

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY, LOWER BASE DR., SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

THE LESSOR MUST COMPLY WITH CNMI PUBLIC LAW 15-23, ARCTICLE 5, SECTION 8652 (A) – (D)

THE COMMONWEALTH RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL BIDS AND PROPOSALS; IN WHOLE OR IN PART, AND TO WAVE ANY IMPERFECTION IN A BID IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS. ALL BIDS SHALL BECOME THE PROPERTY OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/S/ <u>HERMAN S, SABLAN</u>

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

10-Heavy Equipment Mechanic Rate: \$5.60 \$ to \$7.25 per hour

Must be a h/s grad w/ min of 2 yrs exp as H.E. Mechanic. With knowledge how to diagnose, adjust, repair, or overhaul mobile mechanical, hydraulic, and pneumatic equipment, such as cranes, bulldozers, graders, excavators, trucks and conveyors, used in construction. Must be able to work flexible time.

05 –Painters Rate: \$5.60 to \$6.50 per hour

Must be a h/s grad w/min of 2 yrs exp. as a Painter To paint walls, equipment buildings, bridges and other structural surfaces, using brushes rollers and spray guns. May remove old paint to prepare surface prior to painting. May mix colors or oils to obtain desired color or consistency. Must be able to work flexible time.

All positions close on Jan 08, 2014. Applications are available at GPPC Inc office located at As Perdido, Saipan. A copy of valid Police Clearance must be attached to the application. Incomplete application will NOT be accepted. Skills testing may be required. GPPC, INC is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

CPUC urged to take 'careful' approach on Telesource contract

"Change order

means \$33M

rate burden to

customers for

15 years'

By MONETH G. DEPOSA moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com REPORTER

The Commonwealth Public Utilities Corp. was cautioned both by its consultant and hearing examiner on its decision on the Telesource contract, saying this would cause a \$33 million rate burden on customers if approved.

Harry M. Boertzel, CPUC hearing examiner, stated in his report to the regulatory body on Dec. 24 that CPUC should take a "careful, deliberative approach" on the change order.

Prior to this report, the commission's consultant, Georgetown Consulting Services, asserted that the recommended change order in the Telesource contract is "unreasonable, unnecessary, and should not be funded."

Telesource CNMI Inc. is the independent power producer that operates the Tinian power plant. In November 2010, CUC petitioned CPUC to ap-

prove a change order in its June 1997 contract with Telesource. Saipan Tribune learned that the contract has already undergone four change orders and the latest is the fifth.

In November 2011, CPUC provisionally approved the change order, subject to its being funded through a base rate increase. In January 2012, CPUC considered but rejected CUC's request to fund the change order.

According to Boertzel, the change order "represents a significant regulatory decision as its funding would cause an additional \$33 million rate burden on electric customers over its 15-year term."

Boertzel reminded the commission that the provisional approval of the change order occurred before the current commissioners assumed office. He also disclosed that tapes of the three public hearings and three business meetings at which the change order was considered have disappeared.

In the hearing examiner's report, Boertzel recommended to CPUC that the Telesource issues ing through base rates. Lastly,

be tabled until the spring session. He also asked to be authorized to facilitate discussions between CUC, Georgetown Consulting,

and Marianas Energy Technology Inc., to which Telesource has assigned and transferred its interest in the Telesource contract.

The discussion will focus on whether Telesource's assignment of interest in the contract to Marianas Energy Technology satisfies the requirements of the contract; and to determine if

adjustments to the change order terms could produce a joint recommendation for its fund-

> discussion the between parties will also tackle if the title to the Tinian plant and related assets will be transferred to CUC pursuant to

the contract provision.

Non-rate fees

Meantime, Boertzel supports creating a new and revised non-rate fees for power, water, and wastewater, as jointly recommended by CUC and Georgetown.

"The non-rate fees should be approved, subject to their terms and conditions being reviewed and approved by hearing examiner," stated Boertzel's Dec. 24 proposal to CPUC.

CUC and Georgetown earlier agreed to propose 10 new or amended electric non-rate fees and nine new or amended water and wastewater non-rate fees for CPUC approval.

Among proposed electric division non-rate fees is an increase in the non-sufficient funds fee from \$25 to \$40; increase in new service fee for meter change out from \$60 to 95; an inspection fee of \$90; increase in meter test fee for single phase from \$30 to \$75; meter test fee for three phase, \$110; and disconnection notice fee, \$15. CUC wants to maintain the \$60 fee for reconnection at meter while it wants to reduce the disconnection fee at meter from \$60 to \$45.

CUC and Georgetown also agreed on a limited number of non-rate service fees for water and wastewater divisions, which include lab service charges of \$60; increase the wastewater tipping fee from \$25 to \$80; imposition of \$100 as fee for backflow device inspection; FOG installation inspection fee of \$170; FOG biannual inspection fee of \$60; and FOG remediation fee of \$110.

These fees will not be paid by everyone, only those customers who use a particular service. CUC earlier said it is proposing these changes to the non-rate fees in order to keep regular rates as low as possible.

GUAM BRIEFS

Man, 38, drowns at **Marbo Cave**

GUAM (Pacific News Center)— A 38 year old man is dead following what Guam Fire & Rescue called a "drowning incident" at Marbo Cave. Marbo Cave is a freshwater spring near Pagat, Mangilao. The man was recovered from the water inside the cave. GFD spokesman Lt. Ed Artero says the 911 call of a "drowning incident" came in at 4:40pm. He says the "patient" was transported to GMH, CPR in progress along the way. GMH Nursing supervisor Bill Toves tells PNC News that the man was pronounced dead at 5:32pm. He described the man

as local. His identify has not yet been released. The exact cause of the death will have to be determined by an autopsy that should take place next week.

Air Force training on **Naval Base Guam**

SANTA RITA, Guam—The U.S. Air Force will conduct flight training at the Orote Point Flightline on Naval Base Guam on Jan. 9, from 5pm to 6pm. The exercise is designed to enhance the training and readiness of military personnel. Residents in surrounding areas should not be alarmed if they see and hear increased activity associated with the exercise to include aircraft operations. (PR)



Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands Coastal Resources Management

Caller Box 10007, Behind Department of Public Safety Bureau of Motor Vehicle, Susupe, Saipan MP 96950 www.crm.gov.mp • Tel. (670) 664-8300 • Fax (670) 664-8315



NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

The Coastal Resources Management Office (CRMO) will be holding a public hearing regarding Coastal Permit Application No. SMS-2013-X-070 submitted by SEA TOUCH LLC. for the temporary recreational facility for the purpose of operating a holding pen for sharks and stingrays for educational interaction within the lagoon areas fronting the Fiesta Resort Garapan, Saipan. The proposed project will include a 100X100 ft. floating dock with 80X6 ft. walkway, 18 concrete block anchors, and depth range of approximately 6-14 feet.

The public hearing is scheduled for Tuesday, January 21, 2014 at 6:30 pm at the Coastal Resources Management Office Susupe, Saipan.

The public is invited to attend and make oral comments regarding this project. The project file is open for review and comments during business hours from 7:30 A.M. -4:30 P.M. Written comments can be submitted to the CRM Office located in Tekken Street Susupe, Saipan immediately or mail to Coastal Resources Management Office, Caller Box 10007 or fax at 664-8315. All written and oral comments received will be made a part of the permit application record, and will be considered in any decision made concerning the proposed project.

Please contact Coastal Resources Management at 664-8300/1 if you have any questions or require further information regarding this project.

/s/ANA C. AGULTO **Acting Director** Coastal Resources Management



CNMI DOL OSHA **Consultation Outreach**

Do you have a business? Are you worried that a serious workplace injury could disrupt or even shut down your business? Can't afford to hire a safety consultant? If you are, the CNMI Department of Labor OSHA Consultation Office is your answer to your worries. OSHA On-Site Consultation Program is FREE and CONFIDENTIAL and is perfect for you!

OSHA On-Site Consultation Services is separate from enforcement and **DO NOT** result in penalties or citations.

For more information, please call the CNMI DOL OSHA Consultation Office at 664-3156/57

(670) 287-7531 (Vincent) email: vdcamacho68@gmail.com (670) 287-7533 (Elaine) email: elaine.pangelinan@gmail.com

We are here to help you run a safe business.

This ad is paid for by federal funds under the USDOL OSHA Administration.

Service member dies in swimming incident

SANTA RITA, Guam—A service member stationed aboard Andersen Air Force Base died on Jan. 5 in a swimming-related incident while spear fishing near Agat.

The body of the service member was found early Jan. 6 and transported to Naval Hospital Guam after an intensive search Sunday evening and Monday morning by Guam Fire Department, U.S. Coast Guard Sector Guam and Helicopter Sea Combat Squadron 25 search and rescue teams.

The official cause of death is pending the results of an autopsy. The identity of the service member is being withheld until 24 hours after the next of kin has been notified. (PR)



Leo Pangelinan, standing far right, dean of Student Services, Northern Marianas College, welcomes new students at the recent spring 2014 orientation. Registration for classes for NMC's spring 2014 semester begins on Monday, Jan. 13, 2014. For more information, visit www.marianas.edu.

BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUTS



Belated happy birthday greetings go out to Lurissa Leiloni, who celebrated her special day yesterday, Jan. 6, 2014! Greetings come from your family and friends



16th birthday to Mikeala Aldan San Nicolas aka "Batgirl"! Hope you enjoy your day and may God bless you! Love, Daddy, Mommy, sisters, and brother.

Sankei Sports features Saipan on New Year's Day

The Tokyo edition of Japan's in December to prepare for the daily sports newspaper Sankei Sports featured sport fishing on Saipan in its first edition of the

days fishing in Saipan waters as a flyer at a fishing expo in

two-third page feature. The newspaper circulates to over 750,000 readers through subscriptions and newsstands. The Sankei Sports spent two article will also be distributed

Yokohama in March 2014.

"Sankei Sports is a repeat visitor to the Northern Marianas, and it's good news that they are interested in promoting sport fishing in the islands for the coming season," said

Marianas Visitors Authority marketing manager Bruce Bateman. "We believe there is growth potential in this niche market of salt-water fishing aficionados, and we were pleased to assist them with

their shooting arrangements while [on] Saipan."

Sankei Sports is published daily by Sangyo Keizai Shimbun and targets males ages 30-60 who are interested in fishing, including active seniors. (MVA)

Public asked to maintain safe distance from marine mammals

HONOLULU—With than 10,000 humpback whales migrating to the Hawaiian Islands this year, crews from the Coast Guard, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, and the State of Hawaii's Division of Conservation and Resource Enforcement, from the Department of Land and Natural Resources are partnering together to protect humpback whales.

Humpback whale season is generally from November to May with the peak season occurring during the months of January and March. According to the Hawaiian Islands Humpback

Whale National Marine Sanctuary, whales come to the Hawaiian Islands to mate, calve, and nurse their young. They return to Alaska in the summer months because Hawaii's waters are relatively nutrient-free and too warm to support enough of the humpback's food to sustain them year-round. The whales must migrate back to colder water to feed and rebuild their blubber supply.

There are several whale collisions near the Hawaiian Islands every year. Boaters can take proactive measures to ensure their safety as well as the safety

of the whales. Keeping a boat's speed down when whales are known to be in the area is one step mariners can take. Mariners should also maintain a sharp lookout at all times.

Weighing an average of 45 tons, a humpback whale collision with a mariner can be catastrophic. While on routine patrol, Coast Guard boats and air crews scan the area for signs of whales. If whales are sighted crews alert nearby mariners to ensure they remain away. It is illegal to approach within 100 yards of a whale. Aircraft are also prohibited from flying

within 1,000 feet of a whale.

Coast Guard crews conduct sanctuary patrols to ensure boaters and marine life stay safe.

The Coast Guard's efforts to protect humpback whales are not limited to surface patrols. Coast Guardsmen act as first responders to entanglements and other marine mammal distress calls, and they are often the reporting source to NOAA and DOCARE. While on routine patrols, Coast Guard rescue helicopter crews from Air Station Barbers Point sometimes spot distressed marine mammals.

The Coast Guard assists with

an average of 12 to 15 whale entanglements each season and transports numerous marine mammals that are in danger to safer locations.

Mariners and citizens are asked to report injured or entangled marine mammals to the Coast Guard on VHF marine channel 16 or at (808) 842-2600, or by contacting the Marine Mammal Stranding and Entanglement hotline at (888) 256-9840. Mariners can also report sightings by calling the local police. Prompt reporting is the best way to help distressed animals. (USCG)

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

January 7, 2006

'NMI to lose air seats'

Unless new flights are introduced—especially for the Japan, Hong **3 schools rejoin Boy Scouts program** Kong and Taiwan routes—the inbound air capacity for the CNMI is projected to decline by 25 percent this year—or a 60-percent drop from the 1997 figure. Data presented by the Strategic Economic Development Council to the Hotel Association of the Northern Mariana Islands showed that there were 750,635 number of seats available in fiscal year 2005 and 1.6 million seats in fiscal year 1997. In 2006, SEDC projects only 561,298 maximum air capacity unless new flights are launched. This does not include charter flights. The 2005 capacity included 14,880 seats each to and from Hong Kong and Taiwan and 417,367 seats to and from Japan.

Wiseman stops Hyunjin from removing assets

The Superior Court issued a temporary restraining order vesterday preventing a garment manufacturer and its agents or employees from removing any personal property from its factory compound in Gualo Rai. Associate Judge David A. Wiseman, however, permitted the manufacturer, Hyunjin Saipan Inc., to ship cargo con-

tainers carrying garments outside of Saipan. It was reported that Hyunjin would cease operations in the CNMI on Feb. 10, 2006. Wiseman signed the modified TRO against Hyunjin following a lawsuit filed by real estate developer Kevin International Corp. against the garment manufacturer. In allowing the shipment of the cargo containers, the judge said that, if the garments were not shipped on time to their destination, Hyunjin would incur substan-

January 7, 2007

William S. Reyes Elementary School, Oleai Elementary School, and Koblerville Elementary School-have reactivated their membership with the Boy Scouts of America through the Aloha Council Headquarters in Hawaii. Aloha Council, Boy Scouts of America Executive-Marianas District Al J. Cabael said he and the board are impressed with the schools' leadership in motivating the students to join the program and congratulate them for their efforts. "These principals and staff, along with students, parents and DPS Explorer Unit 906 Law Enforcement Explorer Post, are highly motivated to participate in the Cub Scouting program," said Cabael.

Copper wire thieves hit Dandan Community Park

Copper wires thieves struck again and this time the burglars didn't spare the yet-to-open Dandan Community Park. Maeda Pacific officer Cleto Samonte told Saipan Tribune that the burglary occurred in the morning of Jan. 3. He said Department of Public Works project engineer Clem Sablan had called and informed Maeda Pacific that day that a panel board of the electri-

cal building had been forcibly opened. On the same day, Maeda sent its company engineers, Jojo Saracho and Morrie Versoza, to inspect the site in Dandan. Samonte that Maeda called the police and reported the incident.

January 7, 2008

House OKs FY 2008 budget

Bent on beating its self-imposed Wednesday deadline for budget passage, the House of Representatives approved the appropriation bill for fiscal year 2008 on Saturday. The \$168.8-million budget will be on the Senate agenda for action this afternoon. "I am optimistic that the Senate will look at the bill fairly and squarely, and approve it tomorrow (Monday)," House Speaker Oscar M. Babauta said yesterday. He said he hopes to have the budget ready for transmittal to the governor before the House adjourns sine die on Wednesday.

Chamber installs new set of officers

The Saipan Chamber of Commerce installed a new set of officers during a glamorous dinner event held Saturday at the Hibiscus Hall of the Fiesta Resort and Spa Saipan. The night was highlighted by the announcement of the Chamber's Business Person of the Year, Kwang Joong Kim, the general manager of Asiana Airlines Saipan. The Chamber officers for 2008 are James T. Arenovski as president, Harry Blalock, vice president; Michael S. Johnson, treasurer; Kathryn H. Barry, secretary; and directors Doug A. Brennan, Steve K. jang, Alex A. Sablan, David M. Sablan Sr., and John J. Santos. They were sworn in by Superior Court associate judge David A. Wiseman.



lose to 70 members of the United Filipino Organization attended the group's Christmas and New Year's party held last Saturday at the Chamolinian Utt in Garapan.

UFO president Annamae Adaza said the party was one way for the umbrella organization of Filipino groups on Saipan to show its appreciation to all officers, members, volunteers, donor, and sponsors for their year-round support of all UFO events.

Among those who attended the party, which started around 6pm, were former UFO president Bong Malasarte, Docomo Pacific's Lei Hicaro, Anna Cabael of Natasha Service Center, June and Ladyvir Canape, Gemma Batusin, Ernie Molina, and honorary consul nominee Eli Arago.

Foods and drinks were overflowing during the party, which also saw parlor games, dancing, and raffle drawings held. Entertainment for the evening was rendered by the musical duo of Walden and Violy.

As UFO bids goodbye to 2013, Adaza said the organization is very happy and content with its achievements the past year.

"I am always proud of all UFO events, but with all the additional load that we have right now due to the absence of the Philippine Consulate General on Saipan, I am proud that we can assist our kababayans in our own little ways. It might be a little assistance but to the person that we extend our help, it might be a big help to them. All UFO events are a given already; it's just how we add up, spice up, or level up every year."

Besides UFO's three major events last year—Pusong Pinoy in February, Pistang Pinoy in June, and Paskong Pinoy in December—the organization also took part in the 4th of July Parade, organized the annual UFO basketball league, and volunteered in the Philippine Consul-

The United Filipino Organization held its Christmas and New Year's party last Saturday at the Carolinian Utt in Garapan. Members, led by president Annamae Adaza, are seen here posing for a group photo with honorary consul nominee Eli Arago.



UFO president Annamae Adaza, fourth from right, poses with members and guests.

ate General in Guam's almost quarterly mobile consular services on Saipan.

UFO also initiated fundraising drives to benefit victims of the earthquake in Bohol and Cebu last October and Typhoon Yolanda (Haivan) in November. It raised \$5,500 for victims of

the earthquake and \$11,000 for victims of Yolanda.

"As always our never ending thank you to all of them. With all their support UFO accomplished a lot of things for the community. Hope for this New Year all officers, members, volunteers, donors, and sponsors will continue to support our organization and we always welcome any suggestions, recommendations for the betterment of all our events.'

Adaza also gave thanks to those who made Saturday's gettogether possible: Lei Hicaro of Docomo Pacific, TC Catering,

McDonald's Saipan, Mario Mayuga, Peter Crisostomo, Erlinda Arriola, Nel Atalig, Lynn Dela Cruz, Neneth Marquez, Lorna Baro, Cely Lizama, Mr. and Mrs. Gary Orpiano, Tino Camacho of Get Covered Tent, and all UFO officers, members, and volunteers. (Mark Rabago)





Adaza, seated left.

10 TUESDAY, JANUARY 7, 2014 SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Opinion



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Where the jobs are

By JEFF DANZIGER

LOS ANGELES TIMES

friend recently got stuck when he tried to explain to his son, who was struggling to find a job, how our economy got to be the way it is. He asked my help since I am a well-known crank on the matter. I offered him three short anecdotes:

Last summer I was in a Home Depot standing in front of a veritable mountain of new air conditioners. They were all from China, which was no surprise. But to be annoying I asked a passing clerk where they were made. He was a young man, hired more for the spring in his step than his knowledge of international sourcing. We both looked at the boxes, piled in a pyramid, eight levels high. The boxes didn't say anything about China. But they did say "Made in PRC."

"Are these from China?" I asked.

He paused a moment. "No, they're from Puerto Rico."

Or consider this example from last month: A textile factory in Italy caught fire and seven workers were killed. They were all imported Chinese nationals working for Chinese companies operating in Italy so they could put a "Made in Italy" label on their cloth.

A third example: The city of New York decreed a few years ago that each bedroom in the city must have a carbon monoxide detector. There are roughly 11 million bedrooms in New York City, so the law created a huge market. Further, the devices have a life of five years, after which they must be replaced, so the continuing market was also guaranteed. A manufacturing enterprise could hardly find a surer customer base.

But was there a rush of companies here in the United States gearing up to manufacture 11 million devices for this guaranteed sale? No. Almost all the detectors were made in China or Taiwan.

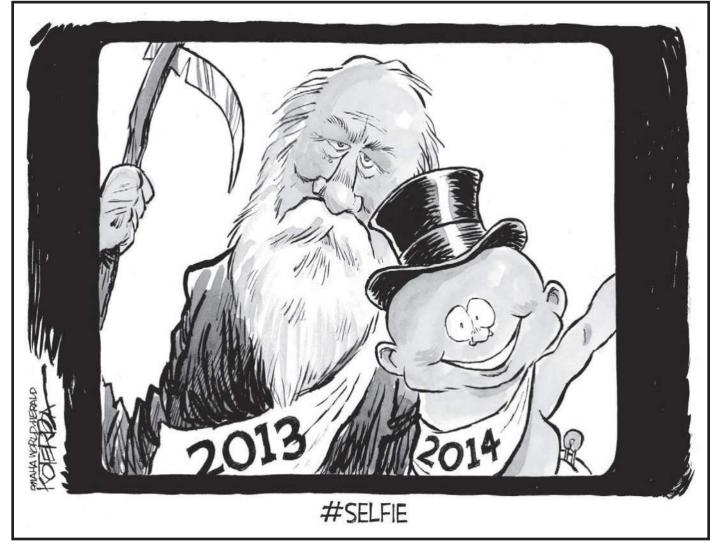
Over the last 20 years, countries around the world have ditched their communist governments, or at least turned their backs on strict communist economic principles. At the same time, India and other Asian nations have rapidly moved into global trade. This has meant billions more workers around the world competing with American workers to make stuff and offer services. At the same time, shipping has become more efficient and economical, and international communication has become cheap, instantaneous and simple. And since the international workers are willing to accept extremely low wages, they have the advantage. Around the world, subsistence farmers have transformed themselves into subsistence factory workers.

And during this entire period, what did the U.S. government do to meet this challenge? Nothing. Our clueless, bellowing national leaders from both parties took no action to meet the effect of this new competition. Many American companies embraced the changes, happy to make profits off underpaid Asian workers while allowing huge swaths of American industry to die.

Two observations are often made to justify this disruptive period. The first is that the situation is an inevitable outgrowth of globalization and natural economic laws. In this scenario, nothing that the foreign manufacturers have done to U.S. workers differs from what American manufacturing did to the older economies in Europe. Lower costs and cheaper goods will always gain market share. Sometimes that share will be 100 percent.

A second explanation holds that what we are seeing is the necessary cost of the death of communism. Under this logic, communism was held in place by violence and oppression, and

See JOBS on Next Page



2014: Felis Año Nuebu

ispues de dumeskansa milag felisitasion gi sagaña, man-ensinahyau hit para ta e'eñgulu' haf' gaige gi ge'hiyuñg. Potput na halom tanu' gastu piot kontra fuetsan pottanmonedan familia. Kase sakan esperansa kontra esperansa.

Mampos oppan pinadesen publiku deste mapos na sakan. Makat ta tampe sa` ti malumot. Machalapon gi todu lugat guine. Dispues klaru gaige gi matan i tautau makat yan miserapble na sapet mafafana` diariu.

Kontodu tinayuyot na maseha pot masge` u guaha fina` alibiu para i publiku lau matmos sin ditension gi halom otru hagoi diskuidu `sino mañan no siankassu.

I ma-utut pagamienton man-ritirau lumalailai esta pa'gu. Finiñot mas fuetsan familia mamahan gigon un' pega mahatsan health insurance, amot, fektus, kandet yan otru siha hatsada.

Pot konfitmasion pinadese, atan mismu kinalamten familiamu na maisa. Muñga mana' chagu' sa' gaige kulan siyan sufa gi halom sala. Atan ya un' ebalua haf' na taiguenau pinadesisimu.

I estrakadan politika matutuhon desde finagpu` ma`pos na sakan. Guaha numae`yu` patte na guaha siha dibin tautau man-ma-apase ni man-kandidadatu para gobietnu kontodu apas kandet. Sañgane fan ennau na kandidatu ya u lattichan As Gonno`.

Todu pot todu, makat na biahe gumubietnu piot `nai mas menos rinikohen kontribusion tax yan mas ti siña i CUC ha apagaye obligasioña sa` megai na tautau umutut usun kandet niha gi gima`. Mampos makat kinalamten i tautau siha ginen subridan kandet, ne-ñkanu` yan otru siha nesessidat familia ni umatotpe yan ma-utut pagamienton tres mit na familia.

Mampos megai inefrese ni ti man-makomple na esta machuchuda` kanastran niha i tautau dinage. Sumasaunau hau man-aminasa publiku guine na batkada? tane`, hafa mohon ya un` pasalista papa` haf` sustar para un` adelanta linala` i tautau siha gi señgsoñg? Ti mapot i areglu siha ni debi u fan machogue p

Modun linala`ta

Dispues de pagyon 1968 (Jean) matutuhon programan guma` padet guine. Layeye pot proteksion familia gi finatton dañkulu na pagyu.

Dididi` kulan hiniga` i tanu` mahatsan guma padet na ni unu humassu kau propiu i modun guma` ni kulan hotnun dañkulu dispues de `las dies gi ega`an.

Tantu de kemun sanhiyung, ta tulaika guatu gi kemun atileg 'nai ta usa hanom kada biahe, diariu. Hombre este gai problema gi tiempon maipe 'nai trabiha ti man-matulalaika i paip (pipe) ni manmapega deste finagpu 'gera. Piot gi tiempon pagyu. Gigon matai i kandet matai ha 'lokue' i hanom. Sige pa'gu man-ensinahyau hit lugatta para ta fan tinane'.

Man-hanau mañeluta

Mas ke tres mit (3,000) na familia dumiñgu i tanu' piot 'nai ma-

By JOHN S. DELROSARIO JR.

Special to the Saipan Tribune

John DelRosario Jr. is a former publisher of the Saipan Tribune and a former secretary of the Department of Public Lands.



lie` na taya` appottunidat guine para siha. Ma-umenta tautau-ta guihe lagu. Man-daña `nos kuantos para u fan ma-ayuda i nuebu na finatto. I ayudu desde atkilon guma`, hospitat yan eskuela, tenda yan otru siha nesessidat.

Mampos mala'et paladat niha sa' makomprende na pot diskuidon man-ma'gas niha na presisu na umadiñgu i tanu'. Gi nuebu na lugat, bula appottunidat desde cho'chu' yan antau na sisteman edukasion yan sisteman hinemlu' para i famaguon niha. Hasan este na appottunidat guine gi tano'ta na tiempu.

Guaha Esperansa

Guaha ha` gi halom man-ma-elihe u fan pinika ni finono`hu. Lau obligasionhu i publiku ni megai besis in`fa` fagas pachot miyu sin propiu aksion adelantu.

Areglayun problema-ta siha sa` puru diskuidun man-ñaba` na offisiat publiku gi halom napun asuntun linahyan. Esta pa`gu ti matuñgu` hafa kattan lau ti pot direksion i kuestion. De dios mihu!

Siña ha' pinika hau kumu offisiat ni ma-elihe. Dimas de un' fama' tane', hafa mohon ya un' pasalista papa' haf' sustansiau checho'mu para un' adelanta linala' i tautau siha gi señgsoñg?

Ti mapot i areglu siha ni debi u fan machogue para ta pega tatte ha`anen tautau-ta gi yanu na plaset. Lastima sa` mampos poble i ridondun linahyan man-antau na offisiat publiku.

Galaide` isla guihe lagu

I man-hanau lagu sessu mañaleg tuyan 'an guaha offisiat-ta mattu lagu para u estira koduña gi halom botadot Marianas.

Ilegña i unu: "Fana'an malefa si gransumatlagu na pot taya' bidan niha na ta diñgu i tanu'. Ya trabiha man-hanau mage para umadobla hagas dinagen niha? Ti kaduduku i natibu gi asuntoña".

Kumuentos i otru: "Dispensa i prohimu sa` ha magtos mampos man-hassu hombre tiha danche gi ma`pos ya mattu mage para u batnis dinagiña".

Esta menhalom yan edukau i natibu poresu na debi unna` seguru na mafñot sinturon-mu na biahe. Taya` kampu esta para hagas mamtu``sino mismu dinage ni mata`lun mañgañgas.

See 2014 on Next Page

EDITORIAL POLICY

Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish pictor of the right to the 2nd Floor. IP Center, Beach Boad, Garagan, Sainan, 96950; fav.

and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Be kinder to our Niñu teams

On Sunday, many of us celebrated Three Kings Day, which for many of us is the end of the Christmas season as well as the end of the Annual Niñu Drives. For nearly three decades, my family has captained a team that has brought the image of the Christ Child to our neighbors' homes on Christmas and New Year's Day, along with the Holy Family and Three Kings Sunday in Fina Sisu. As a participant of this activity for much of my life, I have seen how this tiny little gesture that we do for four days out of the year affects people emotionally.

In the homes we visit, we see children's eyes light up, residents smile, and some of them are even moved to tears at the sight of a baby gazing toward the heavens with a proverbial twinkle in its eye. For a moment, time seems to stop, and the household gathers in prayer, offer their pleas, and have their hope and faith reinforced. To our islands' Catholics, this gesture truly brings families and friends together during the holidays in peace and harmony. Although most of us welcome the Niñu with open arms, I find myself writing this because of something that for me and for some others is greatly troubling.

Yesterday, a friend of mine mentioned on her social page of her neighbor yelling at members of a Niñu team as they made their way to her home due to their actions disturbing his pets. She wrote about how the person's demeanor frightened the kids that the group was composed of. She mentioned about how she calmly tried to explain to the person that this is an island tradition, with the neighbor simply saying, and I paraphrase, "It's never happened on Saipan before." Of course, after yesterday, he wouldn't have to worry about it until next year. The incident she talked about was a sad act I was all too familiar with.

It made me remember a few other incidents of people yelling at

my Niñu team in years past. One of those moments just so happened to have occurred on Sunday at an apartment complex in my village. This incident involved a guy who started a commotion due to the music being played by our team. He even went so far as to yell at a family member of mine, and even wrote down the team's license plates because he felt we were disturbing him.

I write this not to chastise those individuals then, or my friend's neighbor and that apartment tenant now, but to explain why we do what we do as Niñu team members of our churches. Our children and the elderly that our teams encompass are Christmas carolers, using their time to make other people happy. The horns that we honk are a way of letting people know that the Christ Child is in their midst and to prepare their homes for its arrival. You can probably compare it to a town crier informing people of happenings going on; this is how we do it. The loud music we play are our local carols. Just like how carolers will visit homes in the States every Christmas, we do the same using those songs, as a way of both serenading the Child our cars carry, as well as the homes we visit.

Some who aren't familiar with this custom might think of it as a nuisance, but for many of us who call these islands home, it's a part of our lives and something they anxiously await. None of these things are done to disturb anyone's peace, especially on the days when we go out into our villages. But to a little kid or an elderly man or woman who has been doing this for decades, actions like what I mentioned above definitely disturbs *our* peace, especially for the cause we do it for, our *faith*.

These people that got yelled at don't have the luxury that a lot of other people have during Christmas, New Year's, or the conjoining feasts that follow them. Rather than sleeping in after a long night of partying, they wake up early in the morning, connect their sound systems, prepare snacks to nourish them during the route, and spend hours either in the hot sun or the driving rain just to give their neighbors and friends a little bit of peace, the solace that only the Baby Jesus can give during this season. And it's not only one day, it's two weeks. They don't do it for glory, recognition, or even a dime, they do it out of love.

True, for someone not in tune with our practices, this ritual may seem out of place for them, but this is a part of our culture and it will always be. The act of bringing the Infant Christ to villages and homes is never thought of as a chore or an extracurricular activity; it's an honor. An honor that they hope to one day pass down to their children and their grandchildren. To chastise people who try to make other people's days more peaceful through this activity is not right.

I know that when you read this, the loudspeakers will have already been placed back in storage, and each baby statue we use will be placed back at its respective place of adoration, waiting to be brought back down and shared by many of us again, so arguing about this wouldn't do much right now. But to the individuals I mentioned in this piece, I offer this suggestion for next time in a way to smooth things out. For next year, rather than being rude, disrespectful, or in my friend and team's case threatening when they come by, welcome them with open arms and give back the smiles they give you when they see you rather than threaten them.

To anyone who still isn't familiar with this custom, if what we do triggers curiosity in you, come out and inquire what's going on and we will kindly explain the significance of this *tradition*, a tradition which has thrived on our islands for generations and is even done by our friends abroad in many different states and other parts of the world. The Child we bring doesn't come to disturb you but rather to give you blessings, blessings that can warm the coldest of hearts and bring love to the loneliest of souls. This is what Christmas is all about and this is why we as members of our Niñu teams do what we do. To scold these people is the equivalent of scolding "the reason for the season." That in itself is something no one, no matter what walk of life they're from, can ever appreciate.

In closing, I address those people who I mentioned, that neighbor and that tenant. This is a season of forgiving. I hope after this season there will be no hard feelings on your part by what we do, because eventually all feelings of hurt our teams may have felt will be forgotten and forgiven, and the teams will once again gather together next Christmas and continue the good work they do. The thing I ask you as I end this is to please try to be a little kinder to them next year. Belated happy holidays everyone!

Luis John Castro

Niñu Team Member Fina Sisu, Saipan

Collateral damage

I find it alarming to know that the 3-mile submerged land ownership for the CNMI that passed the U.S. Congress in the not too distant past has exceptions that will not include submerged land ownership in the Marine Monument in the Northern Islands, Farallon de Medinilla, and Tinian. DOD has eyed Pagan and the Saipan airfield for military use. Pagan will be taken out of the deal but will submerged land ownership exempt Saipan as well? If it does, what is left in the CNMI to have submerged land ownership of and of meaningful value to its people? I believe that such exemption gives more reason to reevaluate the CNMI's political relationship with the United States. Increased military presence in the CNMI used to be a welcome idea and now that it is at our doorstep we are having second thoughts and rightfully so to be alarmed with the demands that the military is bringing to the negotiating table. Our leaders must be astute and resolute in dealing with the military because DOD has no conscience for the economic, environment, and social disruption of people. Its traditional explanation for such events is, "natural consequence and collateral damage."

Alvaro A. Santos *Agag, Saipan*

Thank you!

We the family of the late Maria Taga San Nicolas Maratita wish to express our sincere and heartfelt appreciation and *dangkulu na si yu'us ma'ase'* to relatives, friends, and everyone else who shared their compassion and assistance during our trying moments. We will never forget your kindness, support, and sympathy! And especially to those who helped throughout the days and nights, thank you so very much. You know who you are! *Si Yu'us Ma'ase'*.

Gus Maratita

Sinapalo I, Rota

Flag protocol

I just want to clarify some issues with the letter from Antolynn Maratita to Vicente Camacho, director of the Office of Military Liaison and Veteran's Affairs, on Flag Presentation Protocol and Flag Folding. In accordance with Title 38 USC 230 and Department of Defense, the VA authorizes only one flag and, if there is any dispute, the order is as follows (assuming the veteran has not left written instructions)...the order of precedence is: surviving spouse, children according to age, parents (including adoptive, stepparents, and foster parents), brothers or sisters (including brothers or sisters of halfblood), uncles or aunts, nephews or nieces, others such as cousins or grandparents.

When there is no next-of-kin, VA will furnish the flag to a friend making a request for it. If there is no living relative or one cannot be located, and no friend requests the flag, it must be returned to the nearest VA facility.

The VA is not able to provide replacement burial flags, even for lost or damaged flags. After a flag has been used for a military or veteran's

funeral, it should never be flown again or displayed in any other way than in the tri-fold shape in which it was presented to the next of kin. In other words, the folded flag should never be "opened" again. There are many appropriate display cases available for purchase to display the burial flag and to protect it from wear and fading.

Other recommended reading for the next-of-kin: Presidential Memorial Certificate. This is a parchment certificate with a calligraphic inscription expressing the nation's grateful recognition of an honorably discharged, deceased veteran's service in the Armed Forces. The veteran's name is inscribed and the certificate bears the signature of the President. Next of kin, other relatives and friends may request the certificate in person at any VA regional office or by mail. For information about requesting a Presidential Memorial Certificate, visit http://www.cem.va.gov/pmc.asp

SSG Dominic B. Pangelinan

San Vicente, Saipan

JOBS

From Page 10

sooner or later it would have to be maintained by wars. Countries that depend on each other economically are less likely to go to war, not wanting to fight with their customers or suppliers. Thus the resulting pain of unemployment is preferable to wholesale conflict.

But are those two observations valid? To assess them, we have to understand our history. War, it is said, is God's way of teaching Americans geography. Perhaps unemployment is how we learn economics. Are Americans, whose jobs have been shipped overseas, the walking wounded in the war against Marxist totalitarianism? That's a stretch, but perhaps it will make lawmakers feel better when they vote to cut off unemployment benefits. If you're keeping score, they can shout, capitalism has defeated communism. We won. Oh, by the

way, don't bother to show up for work Monday.

It's hard to explain all this to younger Americans, who are generally a hopeful and cheerful lot. It means hinting that a great deal, maybe all, of what they have been taught so far in school is wrong, or at best useless. It means offering a full explanation of human nature, including its awful and miserable characteristics, its meanness and its fearful avarice.

That information is no fun to deliver. The worst human traits should be broken to the young in small pieces, so the facts can be digested and compared with what they already know.

My friend invited me over to talk to his son, suggesting I could explain the new economic realities more clearly than he could.

No, thanks, I said. He's your kid. You do it.

Jeff Danziger is a political cartoonist and author of Rising Like the Tucson, a novel about the Vietnam War. He wrote this for the Los Angeles Times.

2014

From Page 10

Puntan Lañget (Horizon)

Taya` parehuña i bonitun minachom atdau gi puntan lañget piot `an gofha`an. Todu klasen kulot dumañae` un` bonitan isa ni tumatitiye homhum uchan mientras tinetegtog ni asut lañget. Gaige lokue` i pajaru man-mamaya` dispues sige halom gi tanu`.

Gi halom laguna, un' sumen katma na tasi ni kulan laña. Mas bonitu 'an gaige i pilan gi sanlagu gi oran 'las kuattru gi chatagmag.

Mas ta`lu bonito `an man-ina i luseru kulan rilos peskadot ni manlulai tulanoche.

Lamegai na islan Pasifiku hu fatoigue lau tat mas gatbo ke tano`ta ni gaige gi halom un` gatbu na hatdin entalu` rubentasion yan chepchop tasi. Estague` muna` sumen gatbu i O` Perlas iya Pasifiku.

I filan tanu' punta pot punta kulan kadenan perlas bineste ni apaka' mapagahes yan asut tasi yan lañget. Dispues de minachom atdau ('an klaru i pueñge) man-gaige miyon na pution gi chagu'. Pas i tanu' gi oran deskansun todus. U ta'lu tatte manana gi otdinariu na kinahulu' atdau.

12 TUESDAY, JANUARY 7, 2014 SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian



Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 15 to 20 mph.

▲87° ▼76°





Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 15 to 20 mph.

▲ 87° ▼ 76°

Partly cloudy with isolated showers.

▲87° ▼77°

Partly cloudy with isolated showers

▲ 87° ▼ **77°**

Partly cloudy with isolated showers.

▲87° ▼77°

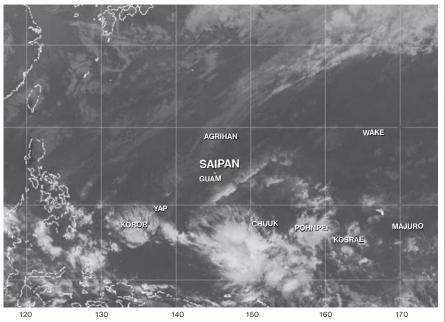
Micronesia

Guam and Rota Partly Cloudy ▲87 ▼76 Mostly Cloudy ▲87 ▼76 Palau Yap Mostly Cloudy ▲87 ▼77 Chuuk Cloudy **▲**87 **▼**76 Partly Cloudy ▲87 ▼77 Pohnpei Kosrae Mostly Cloudy ▲87 ▼76 Majuro Mostly Cloudy ▲87 ▼77

Around The Globe

Auckland	Sunny	▲ 77 ▼ 66
Beijing	Mostly Cloudy	▲ 46 ▼ 24
Hong Kong	Partly Cloudy	▲ 69 ▼ 65
Honolulu	Showers	▲ 79 ▼ 67
London	Showers	▲ 54 ▼50
Los Angeles	Mostly Sunny	▲ 76 ▼ 45
Manila	Partly Cloudy	▲ 85 ▼ 74
Melbourne	Partly Cloudy	▲ 66 ▼ 50
Miami	Showers	▲ 83 ▼ 48
New York	Rain	▲ 49 ▼ 13
Osaka	Mostly Sunny	▲ 52 ▼ 42
Paris	Partly Cloudy	▲ 54 ▼ 48
Pusan	Partly Cloudy	▲ 52 ▼39
Rome	Sunny	▲ 60 ▼ 45
Salem	Mostly Cloudy	▲ 45 ▼ 38
San Francisco	Partly Cloudy	▲ 65 ▼ 43
Seoul	Mostly Cloudy	▲ 46 ▼ 31
Tokyo	Partly Cloudy	▲ 50 ▼ 35

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, MONDAY, JANUARY 6, 2014

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A weak cold front extends southwestward from 25N151F across the far Northern Mariana Islands to end near 18N141E. Cloudiness and patchy rain are along and up to 200 miles northwest of the front. A surface trough northwest of Saipan and Guam runs from 19N146E to 13N139E. Scattered showers are within 75 miles of the trough. Another surface trough near Koror curves from 4N132E to 7N138E. Scattered showers and a few thunderstorms are within 100 miles of a line from 8N132E to 6N141E. A tropical disturbance is centered near 2N152E. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms affecting Chuuk and Pohnpei states are south of 7N from 146E to 161E. A weak shear line runs eastward from 10N157E all the way across the date line at 10N. Cloudiness and patchy showers are along and up to 50 miles north of the shear line.

Tides Saipan Harbor Low Tide: 0.2 Feet 5:58 AM Today 12:34 PM Today High Tide: 2.0 Feet 7:18 PM Low Tide: 0.6 Feet Today

▲46 ▼ 7

Sunrise/Sunset						
Today	6:45 AM	6:01 PM				
Wednesday	6:45 AM	6:02 PM				
Thursday	6:46 AM	6:02 PM				
Friday	6:46 AM	6:03 PM				
Saturday	6:46 AM	6:04 PM				

MICOI	11 136/ MOOI	1361
Today	11:15 AM	11:49 PM
Wednesday	11:58 AM	-
Thursday	12:42 PM	12:42 AM
Friday	1:26 PM	1:34 AM
Saturday	2:11 PM	2:25 AM

onrise/Moonset

GET YOUR PICTURES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS PUBLISHED—FOR FREE

The Saipan Tribune accepts for FREE publication the

PICTURES

Washington, DC

- ISLAND SNAPSHOTS Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related
- BIRTHDAY GREETINGS
- A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
- Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings are other activities by members of the business community. ■ SAMU'T SARI
- Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc. **■ TRÁVELOGUE**
- Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

■ COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and

private companies

Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

REQUIREMENTS

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- otos should be original and not copyrighted. Contrib utors must have the right to allow the Saipan Tribune to publish the pictures.
- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months. ■ For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

For announcements:

■ Must have complete details (who, what, where, when),

235-8747, 235-2440, fax 235-3740.

the name of contact person, and a phone number ■ Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to

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- To check if contributions are 6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JANUARY 3, 2013

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	10:55pm	Daily via NRT	UA190/5077	9:55am	5:35pm	2, 7 via Gua
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(6) and Sunday (7); 3U: Sichuan Airlines; MU: China Eastern; UA: United Airlines; DL: Delta Airlines; OZ: Asiana; VLK: Vladivostok Air; SYL: Yakutia Air; D: Dynamic Airways.

ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA F	requency	Airline	ETD	ETA Fr	equency
Guam-Rota				FRE 115	13:00	13:10	Daily
FRE 100	7:30	8:00	Daily	FRE 117	14:30	14:40	Daily
Rota-Saipan			,	FRE 119	16:00	16:10	Daily
FRE 100	8:20	8:50	Daily	FRE 121	16:40	16:50	Daily
Guam-Rota				FRE 123	17:40	17:50	Daily
FRE 300	17:00	17:30	Daily	FRE 125	18:30	18:40	Daily
Rota-Saipan	17:50	18:20	Daily	THE IEU	10.00	10.10	buny
Saipan-Rota				Tinian-Saipan			
FRE 200	9:30	10:00	Daily	FRE 102	7:05	7:15	Daily
Rota-Guam	10:20	10:45	Daily	FRE 104	7:50	8:00	Daily
Saipan-Rota	10.20	10.10	Dully	FRE 106	8:20	8:30	Daily
FRE 400	18:55	19:25	Daily	FRE 108	9:00	9:10	Daily
Rota-Guam			,	FRE 110	10:00	10:10	Daily
FRE 400	19:40	20:10	Daily	FRE 112	11:05	11:15	Daily
				FRE 114	12:00	12:10	Daily
Saipan-Tinian				FRE 116	13:30	13:40	Daily
FRE 101	6:45	6:55	Daily	FRE 118	14:50	15:00	Daily
FRE 103	7:30	7:40	Daily				,
FRE 105	8:00	8:10	Daily	FRE 120	16:20	16:30	Daily
FRE 107	8:40	8:50	Daily	FRE 122	17:00	17:10	Daily
FRE 109	9:10	9:20	Daily	FRE 124	18:05	18:15	Daily
FRE 111	10:45	10:55	Daily	FRE 126	18:50	19:00	Daily

NMI CRIME **STOPPERS**

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any PTI cellular phone ■ Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

or 235-2769, or fax 235-3740.

TUESDAY, JANUARY 7, 2014 **13** SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Business

Wave of wearable gadgets expected at CES event

LAS VEGAS (AP)—Will 2014 be remembered as the year wearable computing took off?

Upstart entrepreneurs and major manufacturers such as Samsung, Qualcomm and Sony certainly hope so.

Gadgets that you snap, buckle or fasten to your body are already marketed to fitness freaks obsessed with tracking every possible metric their bodies produce. There are countless smartwatches for tech nerds who'd rather glance at their wrists to check messages than reach for

their smartphones. And thousands of people are already seeing the world differently with the help of the Internet-connected eyewear, Google Glass.

Even with the possibilities these devices offer today, gadget lovers can expect technology companies to stretch the wearable concept further this week in Las Vegas at the International CES event, the industry's annual trade show.

Several companies are expected to unveil wearable devices that are easier to use, ex-



In a Friday, Dec. 27, 2013 file photo, Stanford offensive coordinator Mike Bloomgren, wearing Google Glass, answers questions from the media during a news conference, in Los Angeles.

YOUR OFFICE COACH

BV MARIE G. MCINTYRE

McClatchy-Tribune News Service

Marie G. McIntyre is a workplace coach and the author of Secrets to Winning at Office Politics. Send in questions and get free coaching tips at http://www.yourofficecoach.com, or follow her on Twitter @

Offensive email is the sender's to fix—or else

: A few days ago, while I was away from my desk, a co-worker used my computer to send out a very offensive email under my name. "Hannah" included everyone in our department on this message. When I confronted her, she laughed and said it was just a joke. She refuses to send another email explaining that the offensive message really came from her.

Our company monitors employee email accounts, so Hannah's prank could actually get me in trouble. My boss might be able to help, but I hate to complain to him because I already feel like an outsider here. I am almost 50, while my co-workers are all in their 20s and 30s. What's the best way to handle this?

A: Since there was absolutely nothing funny about this fake email, Hannah must be an immature idiot. Despite your discomfort with reporting her, she should not be allowed to get away with such an unprofessional stunt. But before taking the matter to your boss, give her one last chance to do the right thing.

For example: "Hannah, the email which you sent from my computer was extremely inappropriate and could create a lot of problems for me. Unless you agree to send another email explaining what you did, I will have to ask our manager to handle this issue. It's your choice, but you have to decide now."

If your childish co-worker still refuses to cooperate, present the facts to your boss and ask him to either require a retraction from Hannah or send out an explanation himself. Should he also find this amusing, you will know that you are in a truly juvenile environment where you can probably expect more of the same.

Q: After receiving an organ transplant several months ago, my 34-year-old brother has now been cleared to return to work. "Joe" has been unemployed for five years because of his disability. He used to work in construction, but his doctors say this is no longer possible.

When talking with interviewers, Joe will have to explain his lengthy period of unemployment and his need for a career change. Should he openly discuss his disability or make up some other reason for being out of work so long?

A: Your brother has certainly had a tough time, so I'm glad to hear that he's doing well. Because of his special circumstances, however, Joe should contact the Vocational Rehabilitation agency in your state as his first step toward re-entering the workforce.

Vocational Rehabilitation specializes in helping people with disabilities become employed, so they should be able to assist with both his career change and his job search. If Joe has been receiving Social Security disability payments, he may find that the rehabilitation agency already has his information on file.

As for your specific question, an applicant should never lie during a job interview. But Joe does need to talk with his rehabilitation counselor about the best way to present his story and address any concerns that employers may have.

tend battery life, and tap into the power of gestures, social networks and cloud computing.

The wearables wave is still in its early phases. Many of the technologies on display will offer a glimpse of the future -not necessarily products that are ready for the mainstream consumer.

These new gadgets are "like the first generation of the iPod," says Gary Shapiro, chief executive of the Consumer Electronics Association, the group that has hosted the trade show since 1967. "It was bulky and it wasn't that pretty. Look what happened. It got slimmer. It got better."

Industry analysts' estimates for the growth of wearables are nies are likely to introduce im-

rosy. Research firm IHS says the global wearables market which also includes health products like hearing aids and heartrate monitors—could top \$30 billion in 2018, up from nearly \$10 billion at the end of 2013.

While some of the growth will come from an aging population that requires more healthrelated monitoring at home, devices like the Fitbit Force activity band—which tracks a wearer's steps, calories burned, sleeping patterns and progress toward fitness goals—are also expected to gain popularity as deskbound workers look for new ways to watch their waistlines.

At this week's show, compa-

provements in wearable screens and battery life, says Shane Walker, an IHS analyst. The two are linked because the more a device tries to do, the more battery power it consumes. This creates demand for innovative lowpower screens, but also for ways to interact with devices that don't rely on the screen, such as using hand gestures and voice.

"With wearable technology, it's all about battery consumption," Walker says.

What's driving the boom in wearable device innovation is the recent widespread availability of inexpensive sensors known as microelectromechanical systems (MEMS). These are tiny components like accelerometers and gyroscopes that, for instance, make it possible for smartphones to respond to shaking and for tablets to double as steering wheels in video games.

There are also sensors that respond to pressure, temperature and even blood sugar. Torontobased Bionym Inc. will show off its Nymi wristband at CES. The gadget verifies a user's identity by determining his or her unique heartbeat. The technology could one day supplant the need for passwords, car keys and wallets.

Waterloo, Ont.-based Thalmic Labs Inc. plans to show off how its MYO armband can be used as a remote control device to operate a quadricopter drone. The band responds to electricity generated in forearm muscles as well as arm motions and finger gestures.

Co-founder Stephen Lake says the MYO is more akin to a mouse or keyboard that controls activities than the latest line of smart wristbands that simply track them.

"We've seen this shift away from traditional computers to mobile devices," Lake says. "Our belief is that trend will continue and we'll merge closer with technology and computers. New computer-human interfaces are what can drive these changes."

Wearables may not gain broad acceptance until sensors advance to a point where they can track more sophisticated bodily functions than heart rate, says Henry Samueli, co-founder of Broadcom Corp., the company that makes wireless connectivity chips for everything from iPhones to refrigerators.

Global tech spending seen slipping 1 pct in 2014

LAS VEGAS (AP)—The Consumer Electronics Association estimates that global spending on technology will slip 1 percent this year to \$1.06 trillion as the lower average selling price of smartphones and tablets offsets unit growth in markets like China.

The decline is off the peak of \$1.07 trillion estimated this

Steve Koenig, the association's director of industry analysis, issued the forecast at the opening of the annual International CES gadget show on Sunday.

The retreat doesn't reflect less consumer appetite for what Koenig called the "dynamic duo" of tech gadgets. Spending on smartphones and tablets is still expected to account for some 43 cents of every dollar spent on technology this year.

But the average price of smartphones, for example, will fall from \$444 in 2010 to an estimated \$297 this year, despite the number of smartphones sold rising to 1.21 billion up from 1.01 billion.

"These lower-end devices are what's required to penetrate most deeply into these emerging markets," he said.

Smartphones and tablets remain such key drivers of technology spending that they are eating into other categories of devices like point-and-shoot cameras, video cameras, portable GPS devices and handheld gaming devices.

However, within other categories of devices there are a few pockets of growth, including wearable devices.

Smartwatch sales are expected to be 1.5 million units globally this year, up from 1 million in 2013, said Shawn DuBravac, the association's chief economist.

"This is a very nascent market. We're still looking for that killer application for that particular device," he said.

Ultra HD televisions, which roughly quadruple the number of pixels of a high-definition set, are also seen taking off.

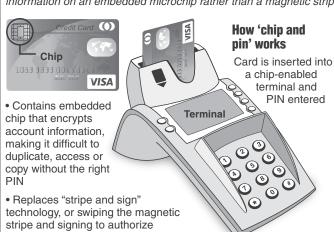
There were 60,000 such

sets sold in the U.S. alone last still a small number compared year, a number expected to hit 485,000 this year, the association said. However, that's

to the nearly 40 million TVs sold in the U.S. each year, Du-Bravac said.



Many countries, except the U.S., are using credit cards that carry information on an embedded microchip rather than a magnetic strip.



Where and why

• About 80 countries use smart credit cards; only one percent of Ú.S. credit cards use this technology

 U.S. travelers are increasingly running into problems using their magnetic stripe cards when they travel

 EVM refers to Europay, MasterCard and Visa, three credit card providers who developed standard for chip readers

14 TUESDAY, JANUARY 7, 2014 SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Nation

Below-zero temps push into Midwest, Northeast

CHICAGO (AP)—Icy, snowcovered roads and high winds made travel treacherous Sunday from the Dakotas and Michigan to Missouri as much of the nation braced for the next winter wallop: a dangerous cold that could break records.

A whirlpool of frigid, dense air known as a "polar vortex" was expected to suppress temperatures in more than half of

the continental U.S. starting all the snowboarding gear we into Monday and Tuesday, with wind chill warnings stretching from Montana to Alabama.

It was 5 degrees at kickoff Sunday afternoon inside soldout Lambeau Field for a playoff game between the Green Bay Packers and the San Francisco 49ers, one of the coldest ever played.

"We suited up, we brought

use ... and added to it," said 49ers fan Jeff Giardinelli of Fresno, Calif.

A northwest wind made it feel like minus 10, and winds increased through the evening. But Giardinelli embraced the cold outside the game in a memorable outing that ended with his 49ers beating the Packers 23-20.

The forecast is extreme: 25 below zero in Fargo, N.D., minus 31 in International Falls, Minn., and minus 15 in Indianapolis and Chicago. Wind chills—what it feels like outside when high winds are factored into the temperature—could drop into the minus 50s and 60s. Northeastern Montana was warned of wind chills up to 59 below zero.

"It's just a dangerous cold," said National Weather Service meteorologist Butch Dye in Missouri.

Indianapolis Mayor Greg Ballard upgraded the city's travel emergency level to "red," making it illegal for anyone to drive except for emergency personnel, emergency purposes or seeking shelter. The last time the city issued such a travel warning was during the 1978 blizzard.

Several Midwestern states received up to a foot of new snow Sunday. The National Weather Service said snowfall at O'Hare International Airport in Chicago totaled more than 11 inches as of 6 p.m. Sunday—the most since the Feb. 2, 2011, storm that shut down the city's famed Lake Shore Drive.

1 killed, 2 injured

in Aspen, Colo.,

plane crash

_awyer: Brain dead girl moved from Calif. hospital

OAKLAND, Calif. (AP)— The 13-year-old California girl declared brain dead after a tonsillectomy has been taken out of Children's Hospital of Oakland, her family's attorney said late Sunday.

Jahi McMath left the hospital in a private ambulance shortly before 8 p.m. Sunday, Christopher Dolan told The Associated Press.

She was taken by a critical care team while attached to a ventilator but without a feeding tube, Dolan said. Her destination was not immediately disclosed.



played by the rules."

David Durand, the hospital's Chief of Pediatrics, said the girl was released to the coroner. The coroner then released her into the custody of her mother, Nailah Winkfield, as per court order, Durand said in an email.

On Friday Alameda County Superior Court Judge Evelio Grillo said Jahi could be transferred under an agreement with Children's Hospital and the girl's mother will be held accountable for developments that could include Jahi going into cardiac arrest.

The Alameda County coroner's office issued a death certificate for the girl Friday but said the document is incomplete because no cause of death has been determined pending an autopsy.

"They may have issued one but we don't have it. We don't think she's dead," Dolan said. "We got all the necessary legal paperwork in order to get Jahi out of there."

A court injunction prohibiting Children's Hospital from removing the ventilator that has reporters on Friday.

kept Jahi's heart pumping since her Dec. 9 surgery expires at 5 p.m. Tuesday.

Dolan wouldn't specify where the girl was taken but he said "they are going to care for her, respect her and love her. And they're going to call her Jahi, not 'the body.'

After spending weeks in a very public and tense fight with the hospital, Jahi's family does not plan to disclose any more about their plans for her continued care until she is resettled, her uncle, Omari Sealey, told

crash at the Aspen airport Sunday afternoon killed one person and injured two others, one severely, Colorado authorities said. Officials said the flight originated in Mexico and all three

DENVER (AP)—A fiery plane

aboard were pilots and Mexican men. Alex Burchetta, director of

operations for the Pitkin County Sheriff's Office, identified the man who died as Sergio Carranza Brabata of Mexico. He did not release the names of the two injured, and he did not know where in Mexico the 54-yearold Brabata lived.

Burchetta said the plane went off the right side of the runway, flipped over and burst into flames.

"The injuries were traumatic in nature, but they were not thermal," he said. "So the fire never reached inside the cabin as far as we can tell.'

Ginny Dyche, a spokeswoman for Aspen Valley Hospital, said the facility received two patients who were involved in the crash. She later said one patient in fair condition and another in critical condition were transferred elsewhere.

Peter Knudson, a spokesman for the National Transportation Safety Board, confirmed the plane was a Canadair CL-600, a midsized private jet. The aircraft is registered to the Bank of Utah in Salt Lake City, according to Federal Aviation Administration records. Bank officials did not immediately respond to phone and email messages seeking comment.

Allen Kenitzer, an FAA spokesman, said the plane was headed from Tucson, Ariz., and crashed upon landing. Officials said the crash happened at 12:22 p.m. MST.

A plane with the same tail number took off at 6 a.m. MST from the airport in Toluca, a city 35 miles west of Mexico City, before stopping in Tucson, according to a Mexican federal official who spoke on condition of anonymity because he was not authorized to speak to the press.

Man reunited with family after AP photo published

WASHINGTON (AP)—Nicholas Simmons disappeared from his parents' house in a small upstate New York town on New Year's Day, leaving behind his wallet, cellphone and everything else.

Four days later, an Associated Press photographer, looking for a way to illustrate unusually cold weather, snapped his picture as he warmed himself on a steam grate a few blocks from the U.S. Capitol.

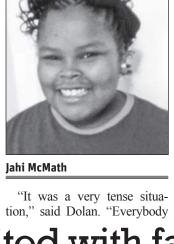
Paul and Michelle Simmons saw the AP photograph in USA Today Sunday morning after it was brought to their attention through a Facebook page set up to help find their 20-yearold son, according to police and family friends.

While questions remain unanswered about why the young man left and how he ended up in Washington, his mother expressed her relief on Facebook that her son had been located.

"It could have been months before we had a lead on his whereabouts. My baby looks so lost and I will be spending the rest of my life making him well," she wrote.

The photo, taken Saturday by AP photographer Jacquelyn Martin, showed Simmons with his unshaven face pressed against a grate outside the Federal Trade Commission. He wore a ski jacket and a hood over his head. A thick gray blanket covered his lower body.

Martin was assigned to the White House that weekend, but with President Barack Obama still on vacation in Hawaii, she spent the day looking for shots



Nick warms himself on a steam grate with three other homeless men by the Federal Trade Commission, just blocks from the Capitol, during frigid temperatures in Washington, Saturday, Jan. 4, 2014.

that would illustrate the cold weather. That is how she found Nick Simmons, in an area where homeless people often gather when it is frigid outside. She found a cluster of men huddled around the grate, introduced herself and started taking pictures.

Then she noticed one person in particular, huddled under a blanket.

"It struck me how young he was," Martin said. "I again introduced myself and shook his hand. He said his name was Nick."

Martin finished shooting, sent the pictures to the wire and called it a day. The next day, she received a message via Twitter from USA Today.

The newspaper had run the photo of Nick and was contacting Martin to tell her that Nick's family had recognized him and was trying to locate him. Michelle Simmons was certain that the young man in the photograph was her son, missing for four days.

Police picked Simmons up Sunday afternoon and took him to a hospital, said police Capt. Patrick Phelan. Simmons' father, Paul, and older brother Paul Jr. arrived in Washington Sunday night and were reunited with Simmons at the hospital, said longtime family friends Peter and Cindy Gugino.

Martin, the AP photographer, said the episode serves as a reminder to journalists that every person they encounter has a story to tell.

"It's really gratifying to see that a photograph can make a tangible difference in someone's life. That's a really amazing thing to have happened," she said. "I'm happy and touched that the photograph could help reunite this family."

Police said authorities notified local media and tried to investigate the case, but there were no leads until the publication of the photo.

"It was pure dumb luck how all this happened," said Sgt. David Mancuso, the lead investigator. "It's truly a miracle."

TUESDAY, JANUARY 7, 2014 15 SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Asia

Bangladesh's ruling party leads after violent vote

DHAKA, Bangladesh (AP)— Bangladesh's ruling Awami League party was leading Monday with 232 seats in a national election marred by violence and boycotted by the opposition amid concerns by the international community that the process was deeply flawed.

The Election Commission had not provided official results, but preliminary results reaching the commission showed that Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's Awami League party bagged 105 seats among 147 constituencies where voting took place Sunday, when at least 18 people were killed in

election-related violence.

Hasina's refusal to heed opposition demands to step down and appoint a neutral caretaker to oversee the election led to the boycott, undermining the legitimacy of the vote. Opposition activists have staged attacks, strikes and transportation block-

ades in unrest that has left at least 293 people dead since last year.

The opposition boycott means that elections for another 153 seats went uncontested, with Awami League taking 127 seats.

Jatiya Party, a partner of Hasina's current government, took 32 seats while 13 independent candidates won.

The results mean Hasina will face no problem to forming the next government as only 151 seats are needed for a majority to form a new government.

Turnout was about 22 percent, down from 87 percent in the last vote, with officials say-

ing the violence and boycott by the opposition kept voters away.

On Sunday, police fired at protesters and opposition activists torched more than 100 polling stations amid escalating tensions that have plagued the South Asian nation's 10th parliamentary election.

Activists chase Japanese whalers in the Antarctica

anti-whaling activists was on Monday chasing Japan's whaling fleet in the icy waters off Antarctica, as the country's annual Antarctic whale hunt gets under way.

The Sea Shepherd organization, which each year tries to harass the whaling fleet into stopping its hunt, said it had caught up with all five of Japan's whaling vessels on Monday. The group released images of several dead whales lying on the deck of one ship.

Each whaling season, Sea Shepherd and Japan engage in clashes that occasionally turn aggressive, with stink bombs, water cannons and ship collisions common features. Sea Shepherd calls the whalers butchers, and the whalers says activists from Sea Shepherd are terrorists.

In years past, a Sea Shepherd boat sank after its bow was sheared off in a collision with a whaling ship and a Sea Shepherd activist spent five months in a Japanese jail after boarding one of the whaling vessels.

Japan, which this year is planning to kill about 1,000 whales,

SYDNEY (AP)—A group of is allowed to hunt the animals for scientific purposes under an exception to a 1986 ban on whaling. But opponents argue the scientific program is a cover for commercial whaling because whale meat not used for study is sold as food in Japan.

> Bob Brown, chairman of Sea Shepherd Australia and former leader of Australia's minor Greens party, said his group will run a peaceful but relentless campaign this year. He dubbed this season's hunt grotesque and cruel.

> "There's blood all over the place, meat being carted around on this factory ship deck, offal, innards being dumped in the ocean," Brown said. "It's just a gruesome, bloody, medieval scene which has got no place in this modern world."

Australia went to the United Nations' highest court last year in a bid to outlaw Japan's annual whale hunt, arguing it violates the 1986 moratorium on commercial whaling. Japan says the hunt is legal and produces valuable scientific data. The International Court of Justice is expected to issue its decision sometime this year.

PANDAMONIUM

Taiwan's six-month-old panda cub Yuan Zai, right, and her mother Yuan Yuan are viewed by the public for the first time at the Taipei Zoo in Taipei, Taiwan, Monday, Jan. 6, 2014. The panda cub, whose parents were gifts from China to Taiwan in 2008, was unveiled to her adoring public Monday, as long lines of boys and girls and children of all ages queued up at the Taipei zoo to see the cub cavorting around her enclosure.

Rodman's ex-NBA team heads to North Korea for game

SKorea calls for reunions of separated families

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)— South Korea's president called on Monday for resuming reunions of families separated by war, expressing her hopes that the humanitarian program would improve strained ties between the rival Koreas.

The call comes amid lingering tensions on the Korean Peninsula following Pyongyang's fiery rhetoric and threats of nuclear wars last spring. The two Koreas had planned to hold family reunions in September for the first time in three years but Pyongyang cancelled them at the last minute.

President Park Geun-hye told a televised news conference that she wants the reunions to take place on the occasion of the Lunar New Year's Day later this month to "heal wounded hearts."

She said she hopes the two Koreas would find a new momentum for better ties with the reunions. She said her government plans to expand civilian exchanges with North Korea and approve the shipments of more humanitarian assistance to North Korea.

Millions of people have been separated since an armistice that ended the 1950-53 Korean War has never been changed to a peace treaty. The reunions are highly emotional as most applicants are in their 70s or older and are eager to see their loved ones before they die. The two Koreas bar ordinary citizens from exchanging letters, phone calls or email.

North Korean leader Kim Jong Un last week called for improved ties in his New Year's Day speech that included a warning of a nuclear war. South Korean officials responded by saying North Korea must first take nuclear disarmament steps and questioned the sincerity of Kim's overture.

North Korea issued similar conciliatory gestures in its New Year's Day message last year before it conducted its third nuclear test in February and made a torrent of threats to launch nuclear strikes against Seoul and Washington in the spring.

show that North Korea isn't so bad, as he took a team of former NBA players on a trip for an exhibition game on Kim

> The flamboyant Hall of Famer headed to the North Korean capital from Beijing with a squad of a dozen former basketball stars including Vin Baker and Cliff Robinson in what Rodman calls "basketball diplomacy," although U.S. officials have criticized his efforts.

BEIJING (AP)—Dennis Rod-

man said Monday he wants to

"It's about trying to connect two countries together in the world, to let people know that: Do you know what? Not every country in the world is that bad, especially North Korea," Rodman told The Associated Press in an interview outside his hotel before heading to the Beijing airport with the team.

"People say so many negative things about North Korea. And I want people in the world to see it's not that bad."

The U.S. is at odds with North Korea over its nuclear weapons program, and Rod- Un, the third generation of his man has been faulted for not talking about North Korea's human rights record, described as one of the world's worst by activists, the U.S. State Department and North Korean defectors.

The defectors have repeatedly testified about the government's alleged use of indiscriminate killings, rapes, beatings and prison camps holding as many as 120,000 people deemed opponents of authoritarian leader Kim Jong

family to rule.

The U.S. players are to compete in an exhibition game against a North Korean team on Wednesday, Kim's birthday.

"Somehow we have to get along, and no matter what disagreements or what discrepancy we have in life," Rodman said. "It's like saying: Why do we have the Olympics? When everyone one comes together in the Olympics, there's no problems. That's what I'm doing. That's all I'm doing.'

🐔 ASIA BRIEFS

Jong Un's birthday.

Death toll rises to 17 in **India building collapse**

PANAJI, India (AP)—Rescuers have found two more bodies under a massive pile of broken concrete left when a residential building collapsed in southern India over the weekend, raising the death toll at least 17 workers. Local legislator Ramesh Tawadkar says rescuers have so far recovered 23 survivors, pulling the last from the wreckage late Sunday in the state of Goa. But there was little hope of finding any more people alive in the rubble two days after the collapse. Police said Monday they were

unable to determine how many workers were on site when the five-story structure, which was under construction, crumpled Saturday because they could not reach the builder or contractor, who are suspected of fleeing.

14 killed in China mosque stampede

BEIJING (AP)—Fourteen people have died after a stampede at a mosque in northern China, a state news agency said Monday. The incident occurred Sunday afternoon at the mosque in Guyuan, a city in the Ningxia region, the Xinhua News Agency said. It

people at the mosque were handing out traditional cakes during an event to commemorate a religious figure. Another 10 people were hospitalized, four of them in critical condition, Xinhua said. Ningxia is the home of China's Muslim Hui ethnic minority.

Boss of Chinese railway builder dies

BEIJING (AP)—The president of one of China's biggest railway builders has died and a newspaper reported he might have killed himself. Bai Zhongren, president of state-owned China Railway Group Ltd., died

Saturday due to an accident, the company said in a statement. It gave no details. The Shanghai newspaper China Business News, citing unidentified sources, said the 53-year-old executive jumped to his death from a fourth-story window at his home. It said he suffered from depression and the company had been under financial pressure. China Railway, with 290,000 employees, has built rail lines and other projects throughout China. It was ranked No. 102 last year on Fortune magazine's list of the world's biggest companies.

16 TUESDAY, JANUARY 7, 2014 SAIPAN TRIBUNE

World

Fighting between Iraqi troops and al-Qaida kills 34

BAGHDAD (AP)—The Iraqi military tried to dislodge al-Qaida militants in Sunni-dominated Anbar province Sunday, unleashing airstrikes and besieging the regional capital in fighting that killed at least 34 people, officials said. A series of bombs in Shiite neighborhoods of Baghdad, meanwhile, killed at least 20 people.

The recent gains by the insurgents have been a blow to the Shiite-led government—as sectarian violence has escalated since the U.S. withdrawal. U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry said Washington was "very, very concerned" by the fighting but would not send in American troops.

JERUSALEM (AP)—U.S. **Secretary of State John Kerry** said Sunday that the United States will support Iraq's fight against al-Qaida-linked militants who have overrun two cities, but won't send in American troops.

Kerry said the militants are trying to destabilize the region and undermine a democratic process in Iraq, and that the U.S. is in contact with tribal leaders in Anbar province who are standing up



A man looks at a burned police vehicle in the main street of Fallujah after clashes between Iraqi security forces and al-Qaeda fighters in Fallujah, 40 miles (65 kilometers) west of Baghdad, Iraq, Sunday, Jan. 5, 2014.

to the terrorists.

But, he said, "this is a fight that belongs to the Iraqis. That

is exactly what the president and the world decided some time ago when we left Iraq, so

we are not obviously contemplating returning. We are not contemplating putting boots on the ground. This is their fight. ... We will help them in their fight, but this fight, in the end, they will have to win and I am confident they can."

Video of the airstrikes in Anbar—apparently taken by aircraft at night—was released by Iraq's Defense Ministry showing al-Qaida hideouts being bombarded. It showed

pose al-Qaida, have encircled Fallujah for several days, and

city on Sunday.

brief reporters.

have entered parts of Ramadi. On Friday, troops bombarded militant positions outside Fallujah with artillery, a military official said, speaking on condition of anonymity as he was

men gathered around a vehicle, then running away as the

A ministry statement said the

air force struck a militants' hideout overnight, identifying them

as belonging to the al-Qaida-

linked Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant, which the govern-

The army and allied tribes-

men also fought al-Qaida militants around the provincial

capital of Ramadi on Sunday,

two Anbar government of-

ficials told The Associated

Press by telephone. They said

22 soldiers and 12 civilians were killed, along with an un-

known number of militants,

and 58 people were wounded. The officials spoke on condi-

tion of anonymity because

they were not authorized to

Clans inside the city of Fallu-

jah have started to form brigades,

they said, and some of the fac-

tions who fought the Americans

following the U.S.-led invasion a

decade ago say they do not want

the Iraqi army to enter the city.

There was no fighting inside the

Government troops, backed

by Sunni tribesmen who op-

ment refers to as "terrorists."

site was struck.

not authorized to release information.

US icebreaker to rescue 2 ships in Antarctica

heavy icebreaker left Australia for Antarctica on Sunday to rescue more than 120 crew members aboard two icebreakers trapped in pack ice near the frozen continent's eastern edge,

The 122-meter (399-foot) cutter, the *Polar Star*, is responding to a Jan. 3 request from Australia, Russia and China to assist the Russian and Chinese ships because "there is sufficient concern that the vessels may not be able to free themselves from the ice," the Coast Guard said in a statement.

The Russian research ship Akademik Shokalskiy has been trapped in ice-clogged Commonwealth Bay since Christmas Eve, while the Chinese ship which came to its rescue, Xue Long or Snow Dragon in Chinese, reported on Friday it too had become stuck nearby.

ship's helicopter had retrieved from the Russian ship 52 scientists, journalists and tourists who are now on their way home

Authorities say the 101 crew aboard the Chinese ship and 22 aboard the Russian ship were well provisioned and in no immediate danger.

The Polar Star cut short its planned stop in Sydney, Australia, to assist. It left Sydney on Sunday morning local time, Coast Guard spokeswoman Chief Warrant Officer Allyson Conroy said in an email.

"Our highest priority is safety of life at sea, which is why we are assisting in breaking a navigational path for both of these vessels." Vice Adm. Paul F. Zukunft, the Coast Guard Pacific Area commander, said in a statement. "We are always ready and duty bound to render assistance in one of the most remote and harsh environments on the face of the globe."

The Australian Maritime Safety Authority's Rescue Coordination Centre, which oversaw the rescue, said the Polar Star, the Coast Guard's only active heavy polar icebreaker, would take about seven days to reach Commonwealth Bay, depending on weather.

Cubans aghast at car prices as new law kicks in

sticker shock!

Cubans are eagerly flocking to Havana car dealerships as a new law takes effect eliminating a special permit requirement that has greatly restricted vehicle ownership in the country. To their dismay on Friday, the first day the law was in force, they found sharply hiked prices, some of them light years beyond all but the most well-heeled islanders.

A new Kia Rio hatchback that starts at \$13,600 in the United States sells for \$42,000 here, while a fresh-off-the-lot

HAVANA (AP)—Talk about Peugeot 508 family car, the most luxurious of which lists for the equivalent of about \$53,000 in the U.K., will set you back a cool \$262,000.

"Between all my family here in Cuba and over in Miami, we couldn't come up with that kind of money," said Gilbert Losada, a 28-year-old musical director. "We're going to wait and see if they lower the prices, which are really crazy. We're really disappointed."

Cuba's Communist-run government traditionally has placed huge markups on retail goods and services paid for with hard currency, a policy that amounts to a tax on people who can afford such goods. The practice applies to everything from dried pasta, to household appliances, to Internet access.

The astronomical sticker prices on the cars will likely mean fewer sales and the state leaving money on the table, noted Philip Peters, a longtime Cuba analyst and president of the Virginia-based Cuba Research Center.

"There's a lot more money to be made at lower price points," Peters said. "It's a short-sighted tax-man's mentality. ... Paradoxically, they mark it up so much that they're not going to make any money. But that's the mentality."

Havana legalized the sale of used cars by private individuals in 2011. But longstanding rules remained in place requiring Cubans to obtain a Transportation Ministry permit to purchase a new or used car from state-run dealerships. Permission took months or years to obtain, resulting in a black market in which car buyers would often quickly flip them for a big profit.

Pope to travel to Holy Land in May amid peace push

VATICAN CITY (AP)— U.S. bid for peace.

Pope Francis says his upcoming trip to the Holy Land aims to boost relations with Orthodox Christians. But the three-

day visit in May also underscores Francis' close ties to the Jewish community, his outreach to Muslims and the Vatican's longstanding call for peace between Israel and the Palestinians. Pope Francis

The announcement was made Sunday just as U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry wrapped up three days of talks with Israeli and Palestinian leaders in a new

Francis told thousands gathered in the rain for his weekly Sunday blessing that he would visit Amman, Bethlehem and

> Jerusalem on May 24-26. It is the only papal trip confirmed so far for 2014 and the second foreign trip of Francis' pontificate, following his 2013 visit to Brazil for World Youth Day.

Francis, an Argentine Jesuit, will be the fourth pope to visit the Holy Land after Paul VI's landmark visit in 1964.

In his Christmas address,

Land for prayers, saying "Bless the land where you chose to come into the world, and grant a favorable outcome to the peace talks between Israelis and Palestinians."

As archbishop of Buenos Aires, the former Cardinal Jorge Mario Bergoglio—now Pope Francis-made interreligious dialogue a top priority, hosting an annual interfaith ceremony in the Argentine capital's cathedral to promote religious harmony and writing a book on faith with his good friend, Rabbi Abraham Skorka.

"We are hoping for a new glimmer of light from this

Francis singled out the Holy visit in relations with the Ordio on Sunday.

All three governments wel-

The Palestinian news agency

In Jerusalem, Israeli Foreign Ministry Yigal Palmor said Francis was "will be greeted as warmly as his pre-

thodox, with Muslims and Jews," Monsignor William Shomali, auxiliary bishop in Jerusalem, told Vatican Ra-

comed the papal visit.

Wafa said President Mahmoud Abbas hoped it would "contribute to alleviate the suffering of the Palestinian people who aspire for freedom, justice and independence."

decessors were."

CANBERRA, Australia Aurora Australis. (AP)—A U.S. Coast Guard

officials said.

A day earlier, the Chinese aboard an Australian icebreaker,

SAIPAN TRIBUNE TUESDAY, JANUARY 7, 2014 **17**

Focus

WASHINGTON (AP)—It was a moment for Barack Obama to savor.

His second inaugural address over, Obama paused as he strode from the podium last January, turning back for one last glance across the expanse of the National Mall, where a supportive throng stood in the winter chill to witness the launch of his new term.

"I want to take a look, one more time," Obama said quietly. "I'm not going to see this again."

There was so much Obama could not—or did not—see then, as he opened his second term with a confident call to arms and an expansive liberal agenda.

He'd never heard of Edward Snowden, who would lay bare the government's massive surveil-lance program. Large-scale use of chemical weapons in Syria was only a threat. A government shutdown and second debt crisis seemed improbable. His health care law, the signature achievement of his presidency, seemed poised to make the leap from theory to reality.

Obama had campaigned for re-election on the hope that a second term would bring with it a new spirit of compromise after years of partisan rancor on Capitol Hill.

"My expectation is that there will be some popping of the blister after this election, because it will have been such a stark choice," he'd said.

Instead, great expectations disappeared in fumbles and failures

Obama's critics doubled down. Fractured Republicans, tugged to the right by the tea party, swore off compromise. The president's outreach to Congress was somewhere between lacking and non-existent. Obama's team dropped the ball—calamitously—on his health care law. Snowden's revelations had Democrats and Republicans alike calling for tighter surveillance rules. Foreign leaders were in a huff—Brazil's president snubbing the offer of a White House state dinner, Germany's Angela Merkel incensed that her cell phone calls had been intercepted. The president's misplaced pledge that people who liked their health plans would be able to keep them ran into a harsh reality as millions saw their coverage canceled.

The year ended with a small-bore budget deal that was welcomed as breath of fresh air, a telling sign of how wildly things had veered off course in 2013.

White House communications director Jennifer Palmieri called it a year of "fits and starts" for the president—and predicted better days ahead.

"We'll probably come out of 2013 in better shape in terms of Congress and the White House being able to function together," she said.

Yet Obama's agenda of gun control, immigration reform, a grand budget bargain and more sits unfulfilled. Obama's job approval and personal favorability ratings are near the lowest point of his presidency, with increasing numbers of Americans saying they no longer consider him to be honest or trustworthy. Abroad, too, positive views of Obama have slipped, with confidence in him doing the right thing in world affairs dropping.

The mantra for the Obama White House has always been to take the long view. Officials scoff at the "who's up, who's down" churn of Washington's chattering class and recall with glee Obama's ability to rebound from moments in his first term when his presidency was declared in peril.

But as Obama embarked on his second term, some of his closest outside advisers warned him that the next four years would have to be different: He was operating on a shorter leash, and might have just 18 months, perhaps as little as a year, to accomplish big domestic priorities.

All Obama needed to do was look to his predecessors to see how quickly trouble can consume a second term. Richard Nixon resigned. Ronald Reagan got ensnarled in the Iran-Contra affair. Bill Clinton was impeached for lying about his dalliances with Monica Lewinsky. And George W. Bush lost the public's trust through his botched handling of Hurricane Katrina's aftermath and the unpopular Iraq War.

Obama's team thought it had a strategy for overcoming the second-term curse. They would make a quick play for stricter gun control mea-

Obama's presidency beset by fits, starts in year 5

By NANCY BENAC and JULIE PACE

sures, then capitalize on the GOP's post-election anxiety by pressing for an immigration overhaul and floating the possibility of a big budget deal.

Each of those efforts failed and Obama quickly found himself consumed by an unending series of distractions.

Some were fleeting, like the revelations that the Internal Revenue Service was applying extra scrutiny to conservative groups. But others threatened long-term damage to his presidency: the National Security Agency disclosures and the disastrous rollout of the "Obamacare" health law.

Some events were beyond Obama's control and his frustration with them was evident when he fumed in September, during the crisis over Syria: "I would much rather spend my time talking about how to make sure every 3- and 4-year-old gets a good education than I would spending time thinking about how I can prevent 3- and 4-year-olds from being subjected to chemical weapons and nerve gas."

But presidents don't get to pick their crises. And plenty of Obama's woes were of his own making, raising questions about his competence and management of the White House.

How could he not have known that his government was spying on the private communications of friendly world leaders? Why didn't he know his health care website wouldn't work? How could he have promised over and over again that Americans could keep their health insurance if they liked it when his own advisers knew it wasn't that simple?

that simple?
As a result, the president is ending his fifth year in office in a "defensive crouch," says presidential historian Douglas Brinkley, and may have to be content with simply protecting his health care law and other Democratic-backed pro-





lems and may be content to just keep control of the Senate.

There's a certain irony in Obama's success depending on Congress, a body with whom he has had a lukewarm partnership.

Lawmakers from both parties say Obama doesn't talk to them much, nor do his aides. Letters go unanswered. Policies come out of the blue. Social interactions are few.

Both sides wistfully recall the voluble Clinton, who figured out how to craft deals with Republicans on welfare reform and other agenda items after the GOP took control of the House and made big gains in the Senate two years into his presidency.

Sen. Tom Coburn, an Oklahoma Republican who worked with Obama when he was a senator and still considers the president a friend, says flatly: "He's flunked in terms of relations with Congress."

"If you know him personally, he's a very likable person," says Coburn. "But it's different than with most other presidents in terms of having relationships with Congress. ... There's a lack of a personal touch."

Of course, the president's tepid relationship with Congress is hardly his fault alone. The tea party forces that pulled House Republicans to the right in recent years made it difficult for



praised by Republicans for being a frequent visitor to Capitol Hill.

But some lawmakers say that's as far as the outreach goes. Sen. John McCain, the Arizona Republican who ran against Obama in 2008 but has since tried to work with him on immigration and the budget, said no one from the White House legislative affairs staff has ever called him or come to his office just to chat.

What does it matter if Obama doesn't buddy up to his former colleagues?

He needs those relationships to advance his agenda in Congress. And the strained ties with legislators are emblematic of a broader problem for Obama rooted in his tendency to keep a tight inner circle.

"Instead of going out and talking to his enemies, making friends and schmoozing, or banging heads together with them or whatever, you can see that the man is diffident—deeply, deeply diffident about the kinds of politicking that are necessary to build consensus," says Nigel Nicholson, a professor at the London Business School who has written a book about leadership in which Obama is a frequent topic.

The president has been getting plenty of that kind of advice in recent weeks. Critics called for a sweeping shakeup of his White House inner circle. Even his allies called for someone—anyone—to be fired for the health care failures.

Obama has responded in his typically restrained fashion. No one has lost a job over the massive health care screw-up, though the White House hasn't ruled that out. And while the president is doing some minor shuffling in the West Wing, he's largely bringing in people he already knows.

To critics, the limited staff changes smack of a White House that doesn't fully understand the depths of its problems. But presidential friend Ron Kirk said they are indicative of Obama's "fairly dispassionate temperament," which allows him to hold steady in the face of adversity.

"He understands that overreacting to any one development in the moment is not the best way to achieve a long-term and stable objective," said Kirk, who served as U.S. trade representative in Obama's first term.

The president's agenda for his sixth year in office is a stark reminder of how little he accomplished in 2013

Obama plans to make another run at immigration reform. He'll seek to increase the minimum wage and expand access to early childhood education, proposals he first outlined in his 2013 State of the Union address. And he'll look to implement key elements of the climate change speech he delivered earlier this year, many of which are stagnant.

Foreign policy could be an oasis for the struggling second-term president. With Russia's help, he turned his public indecision over attacking Syria into an unexpected agreement to strip President Bashar Assad of his chemical weapons, though the success of the effort won't be known for some time and the civil war in Syria rages on. Obama also authorized daring secret negotiations with Iran, resulting in an interim nuclear agreement. But even the president says the prospects of getting a final deal are only 50-50.

In a year-end news conference, the president optimistically predicted that 2014 would be "a breakthrough year for America."

But Obama's dismal standings in the polls suggest he can't count on a public groundswell to propel his agenda. The heady days of 2009 when aides boasted of Obama as "the best brand on earth" are long gone.

"We all wear thin with the American people after a while," says McCain, though he warns against counting out any president with three years left to govern—particularly this one.

"To count a man of that talent out at this point in time in his administration would be a huge mistake," he says.

President Barack Obama waves to people along the eighteenth green at Mid-Pacific County Club in Kailua, Hawaii, Wednesday, Jan. 1, 2014. The first family is in Hawaii for their annual holiday vacation.



18 TUESDAY, JANUARY 7, 2014 SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Overdrive

Auto sales best in 6 years, but demand seen ebbing

By DEE-ANN DURBIN and TOM KRISHER

AP AUTO WRITERS

DETROIT (AP)—Automakers are going to have to work a little harder for your business in 2014.

After four years of strong sales increases—and limited discounts—as the economy improved, U.S. demand for new cars and trucks is expected to slow this year. That could mean better deals for buyers as car companies fight to increase their share of the market.

U.S. sales rose 8 percent to 15.6 million in 2013, thanks largely to a surge in pickup truck sales from the home construction and energy industries. For the 32nd year in a row, the Ford F-Series pickup was the country's best-selling vehicle, with 763,402 sold. The Toyota Camry was the best-selling car with 404,484 sold.

But the industry got a taste of what's to come when December sales slowed to a crawl. General Motors, Toyota and Volkswagen all saw sales declines as competitors offered better deals. according to TrueCar.com, which tracks car prices. Cold weather and strong sales tied to Black Friday in November also pinched December sales, automakers said. Overall industry sales were flat compared with last December.

A slowdown is inevitable, analysts say. Many people who held on to their cars through the recession have now bought new ones. Those who haven't may not be in any rush, because cars are lasting longer than ever before. And unless there's a strong uptick in employment, families aren't likely to buy an extra car.

Alec Gutierrez, senior analyst for Kelley Blue Book, expects U.S. sales to increase by around 700,000 to 16.3 million in 2014. That compares to increases of

Chevrolet Corvette will have a

cord their drives and share the

The system uses a wind-

shield-mounted camera, a mi-

crophone and a recorder to track

data. Drivers can edit the videos

video with friends.



more than 1 million each year since 2009, when U.S. sales bottomed out at 10.4 million. U.S. sales peaked at 17.3 million in 2000.

Gutierrez says sales are approaching a natural level of demand for a country with 210 million licensed drivers, especially since people are traveling fewer miles than they used to. Add to that increasingly competitive vehicles from all manufacturers and you have a buyer's market, particularly in popular and crowded segments like midsize cars.

"It's not a forgone conclusion anymore that the Toyota Camry and Honda Accord will be the only players," he said. "Automakers have invested so much to be so competitive and segment growth just isn't there. They're going to have to get creative."

president of auto sales forecasting for LMC Automotive, an industry consulting firm, expects annual auto sales to grow in the 1 to 2 percent range through 2015, when sales will plateau.

"We are in what we believe are the final stages of the recovery, which naturally leads to slower growth rates," Schuster said.

So 2013 could be remembered as the last of the boom years. Last year was the industry's best performance since 2007, when 16.1 million new cars and trucks were sold.

Ford led all major automakers in 2013 with an 11 percent sales gain to almost 2.5 million vehicles. Chrysler and Nissan posted 9 percent gains. GM, Toyota and Honda each posted 7 percent gains. GM sold 2.8 million cars and trucks in the U.S., compared to just over 2.2 Jeff Schuster, senior vice million for Toyota. Hyundai's

Corvette will let owners record, share drives

LAS VEGAS (AP)—The 2015 lap times and other stats. The video can be viewed the Corvette racing team's elecnew system that lets owners re- on the Corvette's eight-inch tronics system. color touchscreen when the car is parked or downloaded

> record up to 13 hours of driv-General Motors developed the system with Cosworth, a

to a computer. Drivers can

British company that supplies

GM introduced the system Sunday at the Consumer Electronics Show in Las Vegas. It didn't say how much the option will cost.

The 2015 Corvette goes on sale next fall.

to include their speed, location, GM to outfit Chevy vehicles with 4G from AT&T

LAS VEGAS (AP)—GM says it will start outfitting most Chevrolet vehicles with 4G cellular capabilities in partnership with AT&T. The technology will let drivers make phone calls and allow passengers to surf the Web without burning through the voice and data limits on their

phone plans.

General Motors Co. said at the International CES gadget show Sunday that the 2015 model year Chevrolet Corvette, İmpala, Malibu and Volt will be the first to come equipped with the capabilities this year, followed by the Equinox, Silverado, Silvera-

do HD, Spark and Spark EV. While the hardware will be standard, pricing plans have yet to be announced.

The cellular capability will be integrated with GM's OnStar roadside assistance service. On-Star currently costs upward of \$199 a year and has more than 6 million subscribers.

sales rose 2.5 percent.

ers, Subaru was a star, with a with sales falling 7 percent

26-percent increase in sales. Among smaller automak- Only Volkswagen struggled,

In this July 16, 2013, file photo. a covered vehicle sits in part of the new paint shop at Chrysler's Sterling Heights Assembly Plant in Sterling Heights, Mich.

as its vehicles aged compared with rivals.

Luxury car sales had an especially strong year in 2013, with Mercedes setting a sales record to win the race against BMW and Toyota's Lexus for the topselling brand.

"We expect the luxury market will continue to expand in 2014," said Jeff Bracken, Lexus group vice president.

Holiday lease deals helped close the year on a high note for luxury makers. But non-luxury brands also juiced sales with some deals.

Gutierrez said Honda offered \$3,000 in bonus cash to dealers in December for every vehicle they sold beyond their 2012 numbers. That helped the Honda Accord sedan outsell the Camry in December. And Ford said it spent \$600 more per vehicle on incentives in December, likely taking aim at GM's new pickup trucks.

Malibu's loss of coolant turns into a torrent

By PAUL BRAND STAR TRIBUNE (MINNEAPOLIS)

QUESTION: My husband and I have a four-cylinder 2006 Chevrolet Malibu with 137,000 miles on it. Since the fall of 2012, the car has been leaking coolant. It's not leaking to the ground and it's not leaking into the engine-oil is clean. Five shops, including a Chevy dealership, looked at the car but have been unable to find a leak. They've done their pressure tests but the car passes and they can't tell where the leak is located. One or two

mechanics suggested the head gasket as a potential culprit.

Six months ago we added a sealant product to the radiator that seemed to resolve the issue temporarily, but after a few months the cooling system was clogged and the car was starting to overheat. Within the past couple of weeks, the car has started to hemorrhage coolant. In the past couple of days, we've gone through a gallon of coolant. We need to figure out the real issue and fix it. We would greatly appreciate any advice or suggestions you may have for us.

ANSWER: At this point, you've got a big problem. Sample the coolant with a coolant test strip for the presence of hydrocarbons—anything more than a trace would

indicate that combustion gases are getting into the coolant. The most likely causes for this are a failed head gasket, cracked head or cylinder.

A second test can be done in one of two ways. With the engine cold, remove the coolant pressure cap and start the engine. If coolant bubbles up and out of the reservoir, combustion pressure is entering the cooling system. The more involved test involves removing spark plugs and installing an air fitting adapter in order to introduce air pressure into the cylinders one at a time. Seeing or

hearing bubbling in the coolant confirms this type of failure.

Check for a leaking heater core, although this might produce a hot coolant odor in the cabin. Make sure to check the transmission fluid as well. If the cooling chamber in the radiator for transmission fluid is leaking, the two fluids can mix to some degree, and since there's pressure in the cooling system, coolant can be forced into the transmission.

Q: When I brought my 2013 Subaru Outback in for an oil change, the dealer suggested a 15,000-mile checkup that involves changing fluids, filters, etc. at a cost of \$450. Even the service person suggested waiting until 30,000 miles. Are those expensive "checkups" really necessary? I realize the need for chang-

ing fluids and filters, but it seems that such services every 15,000 or 30,000 miles are a bit too often. How often should one get those expensive checkups?

A: Looking in my Alldata automotive database at Subaru's recommended maintenance under normal driving conditions, I find the following; oil/filter/ tire rotation every 7,500 miles, and replace the cabin filter at 15,000-mile intervals. Subaru recommends including engine air filter and brake fluid changes at 30,000-mile services. All other components of Subaru's recommend services are "inspections" like fluid levels, brakes, CV-joint boots and the like, many of which you could do yourself.

Unless there's a warranty eligibility issue, I'd stick to the basics and do as much as possible

Q: The transmission in my 1997 Volkswagen Jetta is beginning to slip and I don't know how to add fluid because there is no dipstick. Any suggestions?

A: That's because this transmission is effectively sealed and the fluid must be checked or changed through a rather involved process best done at the dealership or professional shop.

Paul Brand, author of How to Repair Your Car, is an automotive troubleshooter, driving instructor and former racecar driver.

SAIPAN TRIBUNE TUESDAY, JANUARY 7, 2014 19

Life & Style

Writer, Doyle estate dispute copyright on Sherlock

By JASON KEYSER ASSOCIATED PRESS

CHICAGO (AP)—It's the kind of puzzle that might have amused Sherlock Holmes himself.

Now that copyright protections have expired on nearly all of Sir Arthur Conan Doyle's tales about the pipe-puffing detective in the deerstalker hat, are writers free to depict the character in new mysteries without seeking permission or paying license fees?

A federal judge in Chicago says yes, so long as they don't stray into territory covered in the 10 stories still protected by copyright. Not so fast, says the Doyle estate, which is considering an appeal this month. Descendants of the Scottish physician and author argue he continued to develop the characters of Holmes and Dr. Watson in the later works so they should remain off-limits until the remaining copyrights run out at the end of 2022.

"It's a bogus argument. It means you can reprint Conan Doyle's own stories freely but you can't make up a new story? It doesn't make logical sense," said author Leslie Klinger, who brought the case against the Conan Doyle Estate Ltd. to settle the matter.

With last week's ruling in hand, Klinger plans to finish work on "In the Company of Sherlock Holmes," a book of original short stories featuring characters and other elements from Conan Doyle's work. He is co-editing the book with plans to publish this fall.

If appeals judges hold it up, the ruling could lift the threat of legal action for the untold scores of writers out there churning out pastiches and fan fiction without permission. Most of them fly under the radar. In Klinger's case, the estate demanded \$5,000, he said.

"Whatever decision they make will essentially determine the fate of many characters, not just Sherlock Holmes and Dr. Watson, but very intricate characters such as James Bond.

... What happens as copyrights expire on Ian Fleming's original stories?" said Doyle estate attorney William Zieske.

The ruling could also weaken the value of the Sherlock franchise to the point that major publishers and movie producers could also decide to move ahead with projects without licensing deals, said Paul Supnik, a Beverly Hills, California, attorney specializing in copyright and entertainment law who was not connected with the case.

"At the very least it's going to affect the bargaining power as to what the estate can do in trying to sell it to the studio," Supnik said.

At the heart of the dispute is whether a character can be copyright protected over an entire se-



This undated photo shows Leslie Klinger at his Los Angeles office. Klinger teaches a UCLA Extension class about Sherlock Holmes and is challenging the Conan Doyle Estate, LTD over the right to use the Sherlock Holmes character in new tales.

ries of works. The Doyle estate argues that a basic element of copyright law allows for that if the character is highly delineated, as opposed to a two-dimensional cartoon-like character who doesn't change much over time.

In ruling against the estate, Judge Ruben Castillo called that a "novel legal argument" that was "counter to the goals of the Copyright Act." The lawsuit was filed in Chicago because a literary agent for the Doyle estate is based in Illinois.

There's no question that Holmes and Watson are highly complex characters. Conan Doyle produced a total of four Sherlock Holmes novels and 56 stories between 1887 and 1927.

Klinger argues that everything you really need to know about Holmes and Watson is in the novels and stories published before 1923 that are in the public domain in the U.S. That includes their family backgrounds, education and a slew of character traits: Holmes' Bohemian nature and cocaine use, erratic eating habits, his Baker Street lodgings, his methods of reasoning, his clever use of disguise, his skill in chemistry and even his weapon of choice, a

loaded hunting crop.

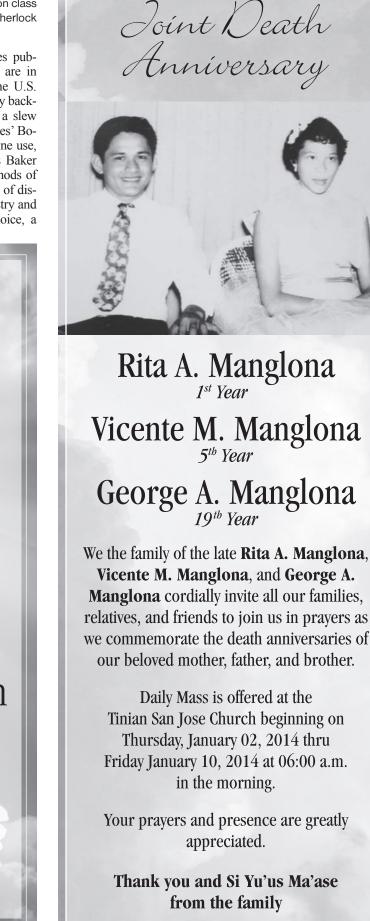
"Everything that the lay person would think of as being a characteristic of Holmes or Watson is in those pre-1923 stories," said Klinger, who is also an attorney and lives in Malibu, California. "In fact, some would say you could pick up almost everything you need from the very first story."

The other 10 stories have new biographical footnotes, including a mention that Watson had a second wife and played rugby in his youth.

But the Doyle estate says there are other significant elements in those later stories, such as Holmes' "mellowing" personality and the shift in Holmes' and Watson's relationship from flatmates and collaborators to closest friends.

Thus, to depict Holmes and Watson based only on parts of the canon that pre-date 1923 would be something of an artistic crime and ignore the extent to which the characters continued to evolve, said Doyle attorney Zieske.

"That's the essence of literature, how people change through different experiences," Zieske said. "And to reduce true literary characters to a cardboard cutout, parts of which can be carved off, I think does literature a great disservice."





20 TUESDAY, JANUARY 7, 2014 L J F E & S T Y L E SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Couple wonders if parenting is worth it second time around

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN

FROM UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

DEAR ABBY: My husband and I are happily married and will celebrate 15 years of marriage next year. We have a 5-year-old daughter. Our dilemma is whether or not we should have another child.

I'm 38 and my husband is 40. We have become comfortable with the fact that our daughter is getting more independent. We plan on doing a lot of traveling, and I will change jobs after I complete school. We are not sure about starting over with a baby.



DearAbby

We are doing OK financially, and if we have a second child, it would have to be within the next year, while I finish my classes and can be home to be with the baby. Our daughter is well-adjusted, and we plan on putting her in activities such as dance and gymnastics.

We would like your opinion, and also to hear from parents who had only one child, as well as people who were raised without a sibling.

MAYBE ONLY ONE IN GEORGIA

DEAR MAYBE ONLY ONE: If you are considering enlarging your family only so your daughter will have a sibling, I don't recommend it. What the six-year age difference means is that your children will not grow up "together." By the time the younger one is starting high school, the older one will be in college and gone. Even when they are closer in age, it's no guarantee that siblings will be close.

I cannot—and should not—decide this for you. I am throwing your question open to my readers and will share their opinions with you. However, I'm sure they will be varied.

DEAR ABBY: I am generally a conservative person. My 17-year-old son, "Leo," asked for an ear piercing when he was 13. I wasn't sure whether I liked the kind of impression it made, but because it was only one piercing, I agreed on the condition that he would stop at one hole.

When Leo was 15, he begged to have dreadlocks. Thinking it was a phase, I allowed it even though I wasn't thrilled. He has since cut off the dreads, but now says he wants an eyebrow piercing.

My son is a loving, wonderful, happy kid. He's active in school, well-liked, and an excellent student in an advanced academic program. I couldn't honestly think of a good reason to say no, even though this piercing freaks me out. I sense that Leo wants to do more piercings, but he's respectful enough to wait awhile.

My question is, what is a good reason to NOT agree to more piercings? Every argument I've thought of—unsightly, unsanitary, makes the wrong impression—is rather thin.

My 12-year-old daughter wants to dye her hair purple. I'm saying no, but still have no good reason for that, either. Am I just too old-fashioned?

NOT-WITH-IT MOM IN MACCABIM, ISRAEL

DEAR NOT-WITH-IT MOM: Tell your son he was born with a perfect body. When you agreed to the ear piercing, it was on the condition that there would be only one piercing, and you expect him to keep his part of the bargain. If he asks for a further explanation, tell him it's because he has enough holes in his head.

As to your daughter, remember it's only hair and it will grow out. If this is her only form of rebellion, consider yourself lucky.

As to your being "too old-fashioned," it's a mother's JOB to be old-fashioned. Keep up the good work.

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

For an excellent guide to becoming a better conversationalist and a more sociable person, order "How to Be Popular." Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$7 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Popularity Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

Hanks, Bullock, Streep honored in Palm Springs

PALM SPRINGS, California (AP)—Sandra Bullock shared the painful results of Googling herself, Meryl Streep shadow-boxed on-stage, and Tom Hanks braced for awards season's "celebrity mule train" at the year's first glitzy Hollywood gala.

Matthew McConaughey, Julia Roberts, Amy Adams and Bradley Cooper were among the stars who cracked jokes and praised one another Saturday night at the opening of the Palm Springs International Film Festival, a desert warm-up of sorts for more closely watched industry events in coming months.

Honors were announced well in advance and the ceremony wasn't televised, lessening pressure on winners and allowing for self-effacing, sometimes lengthy acceptance speeches. The festival is celebrating its 25th year but it's only relatively recently become a star-studded stop on the awards circuit.

U2's Bono spoke passionately about artist activism and the fight against AIDS. Bruce Dern reveled in industry praise for his "Nebraska" after a half-century career, saying: "A bunch of you seem to have gotten together and to have said, 'Bruce Dern can play." Presenters included Gary Oldman, Ewan McGregor, Jane Fonda and Idris Elba.

Bullock, also nominated for Screen Actors Guild and Golden Globe awards for her performance as an astronaut in



Meryl Streep accepts the Icon award for "August: Osage County" at the Palm Springs International Film Festival Awards Gala at the Palm Springs Convention Center on Saturday, Jan. 4, 2014, in Palm Springs, Calif.

"Gravity," delighted the crowd of over 2,000 by reading online comments about herself.

"Julia [Roberts], apparently you and I are in a dispute over George Clooney. We talked about this. It's shared custody and we both are fine with it," she joked.

McConaughey, honored for his lead role in "Dallas Buyers Club," also proudly noted his movie "Mud" and small part in "The Wolf of Wall Street."

"I had a sensational year of acting," he said, wearing a

bowtie and shimmering gold tuxedo jacket.

Streep, who stars alongside Roberts in "August: Osage County" and is also up for Globe and SAG honors, was given the festival's icon award.

"I don't feel like an icon. Most of the days I feel like 'I can't," she said. But, she allowed, jabbing fists toward the crowd, "I feel like I'm an example now in my dotage of the fact that you just can't put those old gals out to pasture. We've got a lot of stuff still to say."

There was self-congratulation all around at the quality of awards season films, from "12 Years A Slave," whose director Steve McQueen was honored, to "American Hustle," whose cast received an ensemble award. Several actors noted that they had been catching up on colleagues' movies with DVD screeners and visits to the theatre.

"We put out a damn good product," McConaughey said. "We've got challenging films. We've got stories of isolation, survival, history, con men, scams. A lot of these films, they walk that tightrope. They have that combination of two very hard things to have—import and entertainment."

There will be no shortage of additional opportunities to celebrate said movies, as Hanks noted in accepting the fest's chairman's award for his leading roles in "Captain Phillips" and "Saving Mr. Banks."

He and many others gathered Saturday will reunite at the Golden Globes next weekend in Beverly Hills and the SAG awards the following weekend.

"To be invited to the Palm Springs International Film Festival is an honor and a delight beyond words and sometimes beyond reasoning," Hanks said. "It means without a doubt that the holidays have come to an end and for a few lucky people the celebrity mule train is just beginning."

Romney accepts apology from MSNBC host

WASHINGTON (AP)—Mitt Romney says he has accepted an apology from an MSNBC host who joked about a Christmas picture that included the 2012 Republican presidential candidate's adopted, African-

American grandson.

Romney told "Fox News Sunday" that he sees Melissa Harris-Perry's apology as sincere and is ready to move on. He says everyone—himself included—makes mistakes and the Romney

family has forgiven MSNBC.

During a segment, Harris-Perry asked her guests to talk about a photo showing infant Kieran Romney with his grand-parents and their 21 other grand-children, all of them white.

One guest on her Sunday show, actress Pia Glenn, sang "one of these things just isn't the same."

Harris-Perry later said her intention was to celebrate diversity, but the segment took an unexpected and offensive turn.

Disney's 'Frozen' freezes out 'Paranormal' spinoff

NEW YORK (AP)—On a wintry weekend, Disney's "Frozen" retook the box-office top spot with \$20.7 million, freezing out the horror spinoff "Paranormal Activity: The Marked Ones."

Paramount's "The Marked Ones" debuted in second place with \$18.2 million, a total that includes Thursday night screenings, according to studio estimates Sunday. The film is a stand-alone story spun off from the lucrative, low-budget horror franchise "Paranormal Activity," the fifth of which will be released in October.

But it wasn't able to overcome Disney's animated "Frozen," which has been a hit for family audiences for the last seven weeks. It has now surpassed \$600 million worldwide, making it the second highest Disney Animation release, behind "The Lion King." It will soon pass that film's \$312 million domestic haul, too.

It's extremely rare for a film to lead the box office in its seventh weekend, a feat accom"Frozen," \$20.7 million (\$52 million international).

"Paranormal Activity: The Marked Ones," \$18.2 million (\$16.2 million international).
 "The Hobbit: The Desolation of Smaug," \$16.3 million

(\$58 million international).

4. "The Wolf of Wall Street," \$13.4 million (\$6.3 million international).
5. "American Hustle," \$13.2 million (\$6.8 million inter-

national). 6. **"Anchorman 2: The Legend Continues,"** \$11.1 million

(\$5.4 million international).
7. "Saving Mr. Banks," \$9.1 million.

3. "The Secret Life of Walter Mitty," \$8.2 million (\$31.5 million international).

9. "The Hunger Games: Catching Fire," \$7.4 million (\$9.1 million international).

10. "Grudge Match," \$5.4 million.

plished by the likes of "Avatar" and, to go further back, "Legends of the Fall." It's rarer still for a film to retake the box-office lead so late in its theatrical run. The last movie to do so was Mel Gibson's "The Passion of the Christ" in 2004, according to box-office tracker Rentrak.

Another hold-over, Warner Bros.' "The Hobbit: The Desolation of Smaug," came in third with \$16.3 million in its fourth

week of release after narrowly topping the busy Christmas weekend box office. Like "Frozen," Peter Jackson's second installment of his "Hobbit" trilogy has benefitted from the lengthy holiday moviegoing season. Its domestic cumulative total is \$229.6 million.

The snow and icy temperatures battering the Midwest and Northeast likely tempered the weekend's box-office business.

'Blue Jasmine,''Nebraska' gain Writers Guild bids

LOS ANGELES (AP)—"Blue Jasmine," "Nebraska" and "American Hustle" have been nominated for Writers Guild honors, continuing their imprint on Hollywood's awards season.

The three comedies, joined by dramas "Dallas Buyers Club" and "Her," gained nods on Friday for exceptional screenwriting in the original screenplay category.

"August: Osage County,"
"Before Midnight," "Captain Phillips," 'Lone Survivor," and "The Wolf of Wall Street" earned bids for adapted screenplay.

"Dirty Wars," "Herblock— The Black & The White," "No Place on Earth," "Stories We Tell" and "We Steal Secrets: The Story of Wikileaks" ranked among nominated documentaries.

Victors will be honored Feb.

1 at simultaneous ceremonies in
New York and Los Angeles.

SAIPAN TRIBUNE TUESDAY, JANUARY 7, 2014 **21**

Pastimes

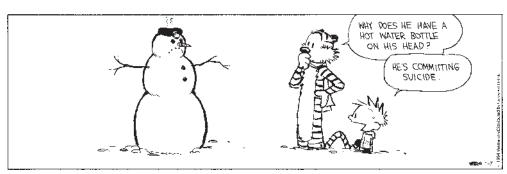
Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson

By Bryan Basset

Garfield®

By Jim Davis





Adam@home

I'M USING POSITIVE THOUGHTS TO TRICK MY WHY ARE YOU WHISPERING? BODY INTO NOT GETTING

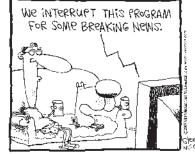
The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



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CROSSWC	ORD	By Eug	gene Sheffer
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18 22 23 24 25 27 | 28 30 33 34 35 36 38 49

For answers to today's crossword, call 1-900-226-5955! 99¢ per minute, touch STUMPED? tone/rotary phones. (18- only.) A King

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Jeremy Renner, 43; Nicolas Cage, 50; Katie Couric, 57; David Caruso, 58.

Happy Birthday: Don't leave anything to chance this year. You will draw attention and complaints if you are not prepared. Travel less and accomplish more by using electronics as your main means of communication. Problems with partnerships due to differences of opinion can stand between you and your goals. Know what you want and be willing to do what's necessary to move forward. Your numbers are 3, 11, 17, 22, 26, 37, 44.

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Don't make a snap decision that might affect your income or your reputation. You are best to wait it out until you have all the pertinent information before making a commitment. Stick to a budget and avoid indulgent behavior.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Take control of your destiny. Pick up the information you need to protect your position and your future. Opportunity is apparent if you are professional and willing to compromise. Getting along with others will be half the battle.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Act swiftly when someone asks for help. What you do for others will bring high returns when you are in need of a favor. Your understanding and farsightedness will ensure you get the respect you deserve. Think big but stay within budget. ••••

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Emotional ups and downs can be expected. Don't let negativity get you down. Focus on the things you can accomplish and the people who are upbeat and eager to lend you a helping hand. Make positive choices. ��

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Watch what the competition is doing and make subtle changes that will ensure you have the upper hand when it comes to presentation. An industrious attitude, along with a little Leo pizzazz, will be difficult to beat.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Make plans that encourage you to get to know your peers, clients and colleagues better. Sharing ideas may be met with constructive criticism, but in the end, it will help you make a wise and worthwhile choice. **QQQ**

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Don't judge too quickly. Gather information and ask questions if something doesn't sound right. A misunderstanding can result in a loss of friendship, reputation or cash. Complete your job and refrain from overreacting. Avoid a risky venture. OOO

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): You can take control, but in doing so, don't belittle others. It's important that you are benevolent and understanding if you want the people you are dealing with to do the best job possible. Opportunity knocks; make the right choice.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): You'll be tempted to take a leap of faith and make decisions based on something that is only hearsay. Back up before you end up in a situation where you are indebted for something you cannot afford or honor.

EUGENIA

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Stick close to home and keep your thoughts and plans a secret until you have all the quirks figured out. It's best to be prepared to avoid being criticized. Deal with an emotional matter with honesty and integrity to avoid backlash.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Not everyone will like the changes or decisions you make. Satisfy your needs and you'll protect your future. Use your imagination and follow the path that feels most comfortable. A change in the way you do things will lead to prosperity. OOOO

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): What you do to contribute and compliment others, you will get back in favors and cash rewards. Donations, calling in debts or signing contracts or settlements will all work in your favor. Don't feel guilty; embrace your good fortune. Save for a rainy day. ���

Birthday Baby: You are industrious, impulsive and judgmental. You are outgoing and aggressive. Eugenia's website—eugenialast.com, Eugenia's android app @ http://bit.ly/exhoro and join Eugenia on twitter/facebook/linkedin.

Conceptis Sudoku

By Dave Green

1/07

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Difficulty Level ★★

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

	Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer							
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Dill ci.	5 las	rl *						Jete

©2012 Conceptis Puzzles, Dist. by King Features Syndicate, Inc.

By DAVID WONDERWORD OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD. The leftower letters scaled by Westerman

FA	RMII	NG 13	UR	UGU	AY					5	Soluti	ion:	10 le	tters
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© 2014 Universal Ublick - www.wonderwerd.com - Join us on Facebook Beef, Cotton, Dairy, Durazno, Ecological, Fields, Flat, Flax, Forestry, Grape, Harvest, Herds, Land, Lavalleja, Lemons, Livestock, Maize, Montevideo, Oats, Oils, Oranges, Paysandu, Peanut, Ranches, Rice, Rio Negro, Rivera, Rocha, Rural, Salto, San Jose, San Pedro, Soil, Soriano, South, Soybean, Sunflower, Tacuarembo, Till, Treinta y Tres Yesterday's Answer: Handset

To purchase THE COLLECTED WONDERWORD, Volume 27, 31, 35, 36, 37 or 38 call -803-642-6480. Order online at wonderword universalucitick com, (Contains 43 puzz es.)

CLASSIFIED AD

WHATZIT Solution: Tally Ho!

CLASSIFIEDS RATES AND POLICIES

Saipan Tribune's Classifieds Section gives you the right exposure without hurting your pockets. Stretch your dollar and get results.

CLASSIFIED LINER ADS

Saipan Tribune also offers a Super Saver Package—a complete 5-day run in both print and online editions, for as low as \$30 for garage sales, apartment rentals, help wanted, auto and more. You can choose from any of the packages below.

ADS		COMBO
	(PRINT)	(PRINT AND ONLINE)
• 3-Liner	\$15	\$30
• 5-Liner	\$24	\$45

ADVERTISING DEADLINE

Classified Ads

Ads must be submitted before 12 noon 2 days prior to publication date

CANCELLATION

Classified Ads

Cancellations should be made before 12 noon of the day prior to date of publication.

REFUNDS

Refunds will only be made if cancellation deadlines are met. No refunds will be made once ad is already printed.

CHECK YOUR ADS

Saipan Tribune will not be responsible for errors after the first day of publication. Errors should be called in before noon of the issue date. Saipan Tribune reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

ADVERTISING POLICY

All advertising in the Saipan Tribune are subject to applicable rate sheet, copies of which are available from the Advertising Sales Department (please call 235-8747, 235-2769 or 235-6397). All ads will be subject to approval prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit, refuse, reject or cancel any ad at any time. Also, Saipan Tribune reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.



Find the familiar phrase, saying or name in this arrangement of letters.



www.facebook.com/dingbatsgames

Chinese Goods Inc.

(5) Waitress / Waiter (Preferably knows how to speak Chinese with related 2 yrs. job experience)

(1) Event Coordinator

Please mail resume to P. O. Box 502351, Saipan, MP 96950

Vacancy Announcement

(1) Maintenance -Atleast high school graduate A valid driver's license. Ability to use efficiently various power and hand tools. Knows how to follow instructions and can commu efficiently and fluently in both witten and oral form

Submit Applications To: Saipan Apparel Printing, LLC. Tel. 235-1680

Avis rent a car Saipan is looking for a highly motivated professional to join our team as:

Supervisor

Candidate must have:

- Minimum 3 year experience in management
- Effective leadership to inspire and develop teamwork and growth
- **Customer Service Oriented**
- Excellent communication skills
- Motivation for Sales
- Multi tasking with a high degree of accuracy and professionalism
- Ability to build customer loyalty
- Must be able to work flexible hours

Candidates may email their resume to ksegal@avisguam.com



is inviting qualified U.S. workers to apply for the following positions:

CLUBMATE

Applicants must have previous related work experience and must pass all American Red Cross Lifeguard requirements (including a 300 yard continuous swim test). Sports-minded individuals are encouraged to apply. Must possess good verbal and written communication skills. Korean, Japanese and/or Russian language skills a plus, but not required. Must be able to work evenings, ekends and holidays

ASSISTANT RESTAURANT MANAGER

Minimum five (5) years restaurant and/or hotel food and beverage experience required, plus have a minimum of three (3) years of experience working in a supervisory role in Food & Beverage. Must be proficient with the use of Microsoft Office software and the use of Microsoport of-sale systems. Must be able to work evenings, weekends and holidays.

APPLICATIONS MUST BE COMPLETE AT THE TIME OF SUBMISSION.
Incomplete applications will NOT be accepted or considered.
PIC applications are available at the PIC Security Desk by the Loading Dock/Employee Entrance. A copy of valid police clearance (less than 6 months old) must be attached to the application. Skills ay be required for some positions. PIC is an Equal Opportunity Employe Completed applications must be received by 5:00pm on Friday, January 10, 2014.

Job VacancyAnnouncement

Submit resume at MBA office in Dandan Idmit resume at MBA office in Dand (across Shell Station) on or before January 15, 2014. Marianas Baptist Academy PO Box 500904 Saipan, MP 96950 Tel# 234-6508

FOR RENT

1/2 BR House, furnished, quiet place w/ nice vard-\$450.00 OBC 3 BR House, furnished, quiet place w/ garage & yard-**\$550** OBC 1 Bedroom concrete apartment, furnished-\$350 OBO Studio-type apartment, furnished, nice & quiet place-\$250 OB

LOCATION: AS LITO, PAPAGO FOR INQUIRIES: CALL 287-7767 or 256-3864 Must see to appreciate.

www.saipantribune.com

Charms Inc.

Vacancy Announcement Engine Marine Mechanic

Beautician Manager 2yrs experience. Knowledge in Skin Care. Manage and

Job opening for (02) SURVEYOR

Rate \$ 5.60 to 8.00 per hour

Must be a college graduate with minimum of 5 \bar{y} ears' experience as a surveyor Must be able to work flexible time

Surveyor job opening will be closed or January 08, 2014. Interested applicants please Apply at Castro and Associates Located at Capitol Hill Saipan, CNMI, PMB 377 Box 100000, Saipan MP 96950 contact number (670)288-8739. A copy of valid Police Clearance must be attached to the application. Incomplete application will NOT be accepted. Skills testing may be required. Castro and Associates is an Equal Opportunity Employer

EMPLOYMENT

(1) Snack Shop Attendant \$6.00/ hour. Multi-lingual highly preferred. Call 285-3838 for interview.

WANTED TO BUY

We buy used cars! Accepting all make and models from 97' & up. Call 287-8688 DPA CAR MART.

Francisco C. Cabrera dba Design Florist / Cabrera Funeral

Job Vacancy Announcement

(1) Flower Arranger

(1) Event Coordinator

ne to PO Box 500866 CK Saipan, MP 96950

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT WINCHELL'S DONUTS

1 vacancy for Operations Manager. Wage per nour depends on qualifications. Must be college level with at least 5 years of continued experience in managing a bakery or similar operations; must be capable of managing 15 or more people and more than one store; must be computer literate and possesses knowledge in operating cash register or POS system; must have an experience in handling the administrative and financial aspect of a business Canability of conversing in basic Jananese or other foreign languages is highly preferred.

1 vacancy for Store Manager. Wage per hour depends on qualifications. Must be college level and has at least 2 years of continued experience in managing bakery operations; must have knowledge in operating cash register or POS system; must be customer-service oriented, computer literate and confident in doing basic mathematical skills. Capability of conversing in basic Japanese or other foreign languages is highly preferred

4 vacancies for Donut Makers/Bakers. Wage ranges from \$5.55/hr to \$5.70/hr. Must be a high school graduate with an equivalent of at least 4 years experience in baking; must be able to read, write and speak basic English; must be capable of lifting at least 50lbs and has basic mathematical skills and knowledge in operating a cash register or POS system. Capability of conversing in basic Japanese and other foreign languages is highly preferred.

Additional requirements: All applicants must be of good health with good moral character. Must be able to follow grooming standards; provide current police/court clearance and health certificate. Must have reliable transportation and must undergo a

Applications may be obtained and submitted at Winchell's Garapan from 8am to 12pm or email them at dennys@guam.net

APARTMENTS FOR RENT



Realty Management Services

Fina Sisu Terraces Small 1-BR, 1-BTH. Unit approximately

284 sq.ft. **\$250**/month. 2-BR, 1-BTH. \$350-\$550/month. Close to NMC campus. MIHA applicants accepted.

Ocean View Terraces

Luxury 2BR & 1BTH Apt with private balcony & beautiful view. **\$600**/month

Sunset View Terraces (Navy Hill)

Luxury 2BR & 1BTH Apt with private balcony & beautiful view. \$550/month

LNH Apartments (Lower Navy Hill)

Small 3BR & 2BTH. Unit approximately 600 sq.ft. EPA Solar Water Heater. \$350-\$450/month

FEATURES:

- **Fully Furnished**
- Back-up Generator Air-conditioning in all rooms
- FREE WiFi Laundry Area
- **Nighttime Security**
- **Ample Parking** 24hr water

Please visit our website at www.saipan-properties.com Call for an appointment 235-6527/8 or 285-1317.

WORLD JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

OPEN DATE: January 3, 2013 CLOSE DATE: January 10, 2013

POSITION: SALARY:

Negotiable

Cook (Mandarin, Korean, Western)

Qualifications: High school graduate or equivalent. Applicants with formal training/education in culinary arts strongly preferred. Position may require employee to receive food handler related health examinations and clearances as condition to their continued employment.

Server & Cashier OPEN DATE: POSITION: January 3, 2013 CLOSE DATE: January 10, 2013 SALARY:

Qualifications:

CLOSE DATE:

Qualifications:

CLOSE DATE:

preferred.

High school graduate or equivalent. Minimum two (2) years experience in food service preferred. Position may require employee to receive food handler related health examinations and clearances as condition to their continued employment. Friendly personality, willingness to serve and a readily smiling individual highly preferred.

OPEN DATE:

January 3, 2013

CLOSE DATE: January 10, 2013 Qualifications:

High school graduate or equivalent. Minimum two (2) years experience in food service preferred. Position may require employee to receive food handler related health examinations and clearances as condition to their continued employment. OPEN DATE: January 3, 2013

January 10, 2013

POSITION SALARY:

POSITION:

SALARY:

Minimum

Minimum Wage

Steward

High school graduate or equivalent. Applicants with formal training/education in bakery/pastry strongly preferred. Position may require employee to receive food handler related health examinations and clearances as condition to their continued employment

January 3, 2013 CLOSE DATE: January 10, 2013

Qualifications

High school graduate or equivalent required. Minimum two (2) years experience in housekeeping or commercial cleaning preferred. Must

have a friendly personality and willingness to provide customer service. January 3, 2013

POSITION: SALARY:

POSITION:

SALARY:

Mechanic, Electrician, Power Plant Operator

Technical Support Specialist

Housekeeping & Laundry Attendant

High school graduate or equivalent required. Minimum of two (2) years of formal mechanical experience or mechanical training is highly

OPEN DATE January 3, 2013 CLOSE DATE:

Qualifications: High school graduate or equivalent required. Minimum of two (2) years experience in computer/ network maintenance field required. Formal education/training in Information Technology related subjects highly preferred.

For more information, please contact the Human Resources Team at (670) 234-5900 ext. 274/266/576.

Employment application forms are available at the Saipan World Resort, Security Office, located next to the Wave Jungle/Water Park. Applicants must submit the completed form and all the necessary requirements to the Security Office. Incomplete application will not be



Must have a minimum of at least 2 years or more related work experience.

Located at Paseo De Marianas, Beach Road Side For more information, please call 789-7856 JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT
(01) General Manager

Minimum of 2 years experience in the Bar Business
 Preferably someone who speaks Japanese
 Monthly-based starting salary \$1,000.00

erested applicants please call 789–7856 for more information WTT (USA) LLC.

L&T Group of Companies, Ltd. is inviting qualified individuals to apply for the following positions:

Administrative Assistant for Sports Facilities

High school diploma or GED Certificate plus experience working in sports organization or sports facilities. Must be computer literate: Microsoft Word, Excel and Outlook. Applicant must have good written and oral communication skills. Can work flexible hours and available on weekends, holidays and weeknights.

Applications can be obtained and submitted at L&T Group of Companies, Ltd. Human Resources Office located on the 2nd Floor, JP Center Building at Beach Road, Garapan. Salaries will commensurate with qualifications and experience. To be considered, applications must be submitted no later than 5:00pm, Tuesday, January 14, 2014.

L&T Group of Companies, Ltd. is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

Qualified women, minorities and disabled persons are encouraged to apply.

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

PROPERTY & CASUALTY UNDERWRITER

APPLICANT SHOULD HAVE THE FOLLOWING QUALIFICATIONS:

- Minimum 7 years in the insurance operations.
- Sales & Marketing Experience needed.
- Engineering Degree Preferred.
- Customer Cornice oriented
- Customer Service oriented.
- Proficient knowledge and skill using MS Word, MS Excel
- Good written and oral skills.
- Ability to work under pressure and meet timelines.
- Is highly organized, keeps accurate filing system
- Must possess a valid drivers license.
- Police Clearance Required.
- Salary based on experience.

Benefits include: Sick leave, paid vacation, Holiday pay, employee discounts, medical, dental and group life insurance. Please apply in person at: Moylans Insurance office located on Beach Road in Garapan. Apply no later than 1PM, January 14, 2014.



Moylan's Insurance Is an Equal Opportunity Employer

Saipan Tribune, Inc. is inviting qualified individuals to apply for the following positions:

Accountant

Associate's Degree in Finance or Accounting with at least 3 years work-related experience in general accounting procedures with emphasis on receivables and payable management. Proficient in the use of SAP R3 FICO system and MS Excel, Word and PowerPoint software. Must be able to work under time pressure and must work flexible hours. CPA not required.

Associate Editor

Associates degree in Journalism, Creative Writing, English, or any other related course with at least 5 years experience, including newsroom management, story evaluation, and production. Must have strong rewriting, headlining, and proofreading skills and must be able to meet tight deadlines. Preferably with an extensive experience in sports writing.

Circulations Officer

Associates degree in Business Administration, Accounting or any related course. Minimum of 2 years work-related experience in a newspaper or magazine publication. Good oral and written communication skills and proficient in MS Word, Excel & PowerPoint. Must be self-motivated with strong organizational skills to help manage newspaper circulation assignments. Must have dependable transportation and able to work early mornings and evening hours.

Applications can be obtained and submitted at Saipan Tribune, Inc. Human Resources Office located on the 2nd Floor, JP Center Building at Beach Road, Garapan. Salaries will commensurate with qualifications and experience. To be considered, applications must be submitted no later than 5:00pm, Tuesday, January 14, 2014.

Saipan Tribune, Inc. is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

Qualified women, minorities and disabled persons are encouraged to apply.

Job Vacancy Announcement

Strategic Gaming Solutions, Inc. has immediate job openings for the following positions:

Floor Attendant (3)

<u>Position Summary:</u> Responsible for ensuring that the gaming machines floor operate smoothly and for providing a high degree of courteous service to guests during their entertainment experience. Assist the Gaming Floor Supervisor in maintaining the highest standards of efficiency, security and customer satisfaction

Position Requirement: High School graduate, GED or equivalent plus 2 years work experience as a gaming floor attendant or game room customer service or any combination of experience, education and/or training where gaming operations or gaming floor attendant skills are demonstrated or willing to undergo in-house training. Ability to communicate effectively with guests, team members and management in both written and verbal form, Ability to handle multiple tasks. Must demonstrate true passion to serve guests. Must have strong team work skills. Must be willing to work shifts, evenings, holidays, and weekends. Highly motivated, organized, outgoing, with excellent communication and leadership skills an advantage.

Cashier (3

<u>Position Summary:</u> Conduct financial transactions for patrons/guests. Exchange coins, tokens, and chips for patrons' money. Issue payoffs and obtain customer's signature on receipt. Count funds and reconcile daily summaries of transactions to balance books. Convert gaming checks, coupons, tokens, or coins to currency for gaming patrons. Maintain cage security. Maintain confidentiality of customers' transactions. Use cash register or computer to record transactions.

Position Requirement: High School graduate, GED or equivalent plus 2 years work experience as a game room cashier or casino cash desk operations or any combination of experience, education and/or training where financial transactions for patrons/guest skills are demonstrated or willing to undergo in-house training. Ability to communicate effectively with guests, team members and management in both written and verbal form, Ability to handle multiple tasks. Must demonstrate true passion to serve guests. Must have strong team work skills. Must be willing to work shifts, evenings, holidays, and weekends. Highly motivated, organized, outgoing, with excellent communication and leadership skills an advantage.

Surveillance Operator

<u>Position Summary:</u> Responsible for video observation of all aspects of the e-gaming/digital lounge operation and the reporting of all irregular or illegal activities.

Position Requirement: High School graduate, GED or equivalent plus 2 years work experience as a surveillance operator or investigator or any combination of experience, education and/or training in video surveillance and/or related investigations into all casino/e-gaming lounge related activities including accounting, gaming machines, change booths, cashiering operations, count rooms, or wagering areas. Knowledge of gaming internal control procedures, CCTV and security management systems. Ability to communicate effectively with guests, team members and management in both written and verbal form, Ability to handle multiple tasks. Must demonstrate true passion to serve guests. Must have strong team work skills. Must be willing to work shifts, evenings, holidays, and weekends. Highly motivated, organized, outgoing, with excellent communication and leadership skills an advantage.

Security Office

<u>Position Summary:</u> Responsible for the safety and well being of guests and fellow employees and protection of company property. Regularly provides escorts of money and persons in money-handling positions. Patrols all sections of property to identify safety hazards and breaks in security. Enforces all company policies and procedures. Maintains and enforces internal security regulations.

Position Requirement: High School graduate, GED or equivalent plus 2 years work experience as a security or police officer or investigator or any combination of experience, education and/or training in video surveillance and/or related investigations into all casino/e-gaming lounge related activities including accounting, gaming machines, change booths, cashiering operations, count rooms, or wagering areas. Knowledge of gaming internal control procedures, CCTV and security management systems. Ability to communicate effectively with guests, team members and management in both written and verbal form, Ability to handle multiple tasks. Must demonstrate true passion to serve guests. Must have strong team work skills. Must be willing to work shifts, evenings, holidays, and weekends. Highly motivated, organized, outgoing, with excellent communication and leadership skills an advantage.

Bartende

<u>Position Summary:</u> Responsible for operating and maintaining the e-gaming/digital lounge bar during the shift ensuring that the bar, equipment and stock is maintained and cleaned. Ensure that all stock levels are adequate. Mix and serve drinks to patrons, directly or through waitstaff

Position Requirement: High School graduate, GED or equivalent plus 1 year work experience as a bartender. Must be energetic with an excellent track record in hospitality and who thrives in a fast-paced service environment. Must have in depth knowledge about wines, spirits, cocktails and other drink ingredients. Ability to communicate effectively with guests, team members and management in both written and verbal form, Ability to handle multiple tasks. Must demonstrate true passion to serve guests. Must have strong team work skills. Must be willing to work shifts, evenings, holidays, and weekends. Highly motivated, organized, outgoing, with excellent communication and leadership skills an advantage.

Waiter – Waitress (3)

Position Summary: Take orders and serve food and beverages to customers at tables and all other areas of the e-gaming/digital lounges. Regularly check customers to ensure they are enjoying their food and beverages and take action to correct any problems. Prepare checks or receipts that itemize and total meals/heverages costs.

Position Requirement: High School graduate, GED or equivalent plus 1 year work experience as a waiter/waitress. Must be energetic with an excellent track record in hospitality and who thrives in a fast-paced service environment. Ability to communicate effectively with customers, guests, team members and management in both written and verbal form, Ability to handle multiple tasks. Must demonstrate true passion to serve guests. Must have strong team work skills. Must be willing to work shifts, evenings, holidays, and weekends. Highly motivated, organized, outgoing, with excellent communication and leadership skills an advantage.

Guest Services/Marketing Supervisor (1)

Position Summary: Responsible for development and execution of marketing, budget and promotional campaigns. Structure and maintain effective VIP and guest services department. Ensure full support is given to junkets, premium players and VIP's visiting the e-gaming/digital lounge. Market the e-gaming/digital lounge internationally and develop and maintain customer contacts in target markets. Ensure effective liaison between guest services and other departments. Identify, develop, or evaluate marketing strategy, based on knowledge of establishment objectives, market characteristics and other relevant factors. Formulate, direct as well as coordinate marketing activities plus policies to promote products and services, working with advertising promotion managers.

Position Requirement: High School graduate, GED or equivalent plus 2 year experience working in a casino guest services department as a guest service/marketing supervisor or e-gaming clubs promoting gaming entertainment and services. Must be energetic with an excellent track record in hospitality and who thrives in a fast-paced service environment. Must have in depth knowledge about marketing strategies. Ability to communicate effectively with guests, team members and management in both written and verbal form, Ability to handle multiple tasks. Must demonstrate true passion to serve guests. Must have strong team work skills. Must be willing to work shifts, evenings, holidays, and weekends. Highly motivated, organized, outgoing, with excellent communication and leadership skills an advantage.

Compensation: All positions will be filled and paid at a rate commensurate with qualification, work experience, and ability to perform.

Job Location: Saipan and at all offices or e-gaming/digital gaming lounges of the corporation.

Application: Applications may be obtained from the HR Office of Mita Travel, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan. The detailed job description & KSA and benefits for each position is available for review by applicants. Deadline for submission of completed applications is January 8, 2014 at 6:00 p.m.

Job Vacancy Announcement

Strategic Gaming Solutions, Inc. has immediate job openings for the following positions:

General Manager, Electronic Gaming (1)

Position Summary: Plan, direct and co-ordinate the operations of a business, division, department or operating unit of Strategic Gaming Solutions, Inc. Plan and maintain systems and procedures for operating efficiency. Manage staff for optimum performance. Ensure compliance with all applicable CNMI and Federal laws and adherence to and maintenance of policy of confidentiality within the gaming operation; and to produce maximum revenue levels.

Position Requirement: High School graduate, GED or equivalent and a certificate in gaming operations or management plus 13 years of successful work experience in one or more gaming operations, 7 years of which must be as a gaming table or gaming machine manager; ability to communicate effectively with guests, team members and management in both written and verbal form and the ability to handle multiple tasks; demonstrated experience and ability to manage all table games and must be computer literate. Knowledge and experience in strategic planning; marketing, brand reinforcement; networking, stakeholder communication; financial management, forecasting, budgeting; team building and development; staff management, mentoring and motivation; organizational, coordination and time management; complete all documentation accurately in accordance with standards and applicable local and federal laws. Ability to work any shift or hours; must be willing to work shifts, evenings, holidays, and weekends; highly motivated, organized, outgoing, with excellent and leadership skills. Ability to work any shift or hours.

Human Resources Officer (1)

<u>Position Summary:</u> Responsible for planning, development, and implementation of all HR policies, procedures, standards, systems and program; provide supervision and direction as well as coordinate all activities of the Human Resources Office to ensure that all established goals are achieved; Manages and administers a specialized corporate-wide human resource activity such as recruitment, selection and retention, employee relations, compensation, training and development, organizational development, classification, training or benefits and occupational safety. Responsible for major program administration, policy and procedure formulation and implementation involving in-depth communication and analysis.

Position Requirement: Degree or diploma in human resources management, business administration, public administration or equivalent plus 3 years generalist human resources experience or professional level experience in human resources with at least two years supervisory experience or any equivalent combination of experience, education and/or training where personnel skills and managing people are demonstrated; knowledge of the principles and practices of HR management; knowledge of business principles; knowledge of HR relevant legislation and regulations; knowledge of relevant software; knowledge and experience in strategic planning, workforce planning, performance management and HR alignment; highly motivated, organized, outgoing, with excellent communication and leadership skills; computer literate.

Finance Manager (1)

Position Summary: Responsible for the entire function and activities of the Finance Department, for applying accounting principles and procedures to analyze financial information, forecast revenue and expenditures, preparing accurate and timely financial reports and statements and ensuring appropriate accounting control procedures.

Position Requirement: Bachelor's degree in Accounting, Business Administration or related area; or four to six years related experience and/or training; or an equivalent combination of education and experience. Minimum of three (3) years experience in accounting, in management of financial systems and budgets, financial reporting, financial data analysis and forecasting, auditing, taxation and providing financial advice, preferably in the gaming industry, with progressive supervisory/managerial experience required. Experience as a financial manager who has led a focused, business oriented team. Good oral and written communication skills. Must be a practical, logical and decisive individual with the ability to get the job done. Must be extremely numbers-oriented and computer-literate, with superior spreadsheet skills; proficiency in accounting and Excel software highly preferred.

Executive Assistant (1)

<u>Position Summary:</u> Perform all and/or any combination of clerical duties requiring knowledge of systems, practices, or procedures and use of all types office machines; maintain and control all aspects relating to club management systems; supervise and participate in the Electronic Gaming Machine soft count and the issuing and collection of cash floats to the Bar; and carry out regular audits of Food and Beverage stocks as requested by the Finance Manager.

Position Requirement: High School graduate, GED or equivalent plus 3 years work experience in responsible office management providing high level support; be able to communicate clearly in and possess a good command of verbal and written English. Knowledge of administrative and clerical procedures and systems such as word processing, managing files and records, stenography and transcription, designing forms, and other office procedures and terminology. Proficient computer skills and in-depth knowledge of relevant software such as MS Office Suite. Knowledge of standard office administrative practices and procedures.

Must be willing to work shifts, evenings, holidays, and weekends. Highly motivated, organized, outgoing, with

must be willing to work snirts, evenings, nolidays, and weekends. Highly motivated, organized, outgoing, with excellent communication and leadership skills an advantage.

Shift Manager (3)

<u>Position Summary:</u> Responsible and accountable for the overall efficient and profitable operation of all operational areas of the e-gaming/digital gaming lounges of the corporation. Maintain with the support of all subordinate personnel the highest standards of efficiency, customer service and security, in accordance with the policies and procedures of the corporation. Assume the duties and authority of (Operational areas of the Club – Gaming, Bar, waiters/waitresses, security officers and cleaners) the General Manager in his/her absence, and perform any other special duties as requested from time to time by the General Manager.

Position Requirement: Degree in business management or related field or any equivalent combination of experience, education and/or training where gaming operations or gaming management skills and managing people are demonstrated. Able to communicate dearly in and possess a good command of verbal and written English. A minimum of 3 years' experience in casino gaming / slots management/e-gaming machine/table games. Ability to work in a team. Must demonstrate the ability to supervise the activities of others.

Electronic Gaming Machine Technician (3)

Position Summary: Responsible for the efficient running of all electronic gaming machines, servrs and IT systems. Repair, service and maintain electronic gaming machines in order to minimize down time of machines which results in loss of revenue. Organize the activities of maintenance and technician contractors.

Position Requirement: High School graduate, GED, technical school plus a minimum of 3 years work experience as a slots or e-gaming machine technician in a casino or equivalent or any equivalent combination of experience, education and/or training in e-gaming machines repair, service, and maintenance skills can be demonstrated. Able to communicate clearly in and possess a good command of verbal and written English. Knowledge of various types of electronic gaming equipment used on casino floor and demonstrate the skills and ability to diagnose problems, take corrective action necessary, and ensure device is operational as quickly and efficiently as practical.

Gaming Floor Supervisor (2)

<u>Position Summary:</u> Supervise and organize the gaming floor, maintaining the highest standards of efficiency, security and customer satisfaction, in accordance with the procedures and policies of the corporation. Responsible and accountable for the overall efficient and profitable operation of all operational areas of the gaming floor through subordinate personnel. Assume the duties and authority of the Shift Manager in his/her absence, and perform any other special duties as requested from time to time by the General Manager.

Position Requirement: High School graduate, GED or equivalent plus 3 years successful work experience in slots or gaming club or lounge supervisory management or any equivalent combination of experience, education and/or training where personnel skills and managing people or managing gaming floor supervision or operation are demonstrated.

Guest Services Officer (2)

Position Summary: Responsible for ensuring the smooth operation of the guest services desk on a designated shift. Ensure full support is given to visiting junkets, premium players and VIP's visiting the e-gaming/digital lounge.

Position Requirement: High School graduate, GED or equivalent plus 3 years successful work experience as a guest services officer in a casino , slots or gaming dub or lounge or any equivalent combination of experience, education and/or training where guests services skills are demonstrated. Able to communicate clearly in and possess a good command of verbal and written English. Excellent Public Speaking and communication skills. Must be computer literate with effective negotiating and problem solving skills.

Compensation: All positions will be filled and paid at a rate commensurate with qualification, work experience, and ability to perform.

Job Location: Saipan and at all offices or e-gaming/digital gaming lounges of the corporation.

Application: Applications may be obtained from the HR Office of Mita Travel, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan. The detailed job description & KSA and benefits for each position is available for review by applicants. Deadline for submission of completed applications is January 7, 2014 at 6:00 p.m.

49ers edge Packers in frigid wild-card game



Wis. (AP)—Under pressure in subzero weather, Kaepe-Colin rnick kept his cool.

Facing a blitz on third-and-8, the elusive San Francisco 49ers quarterback scrambled 11 yards out of trouble to set up Phil Dawson's 33-yard field goal as time expired for a 23-20 win Sunday over the Green Bay Packers in an NFC wild-card game.

Doesn't matter where or when - the 49ers keep figuring out how to beat Green Bay.

"Didn't think we were going to pull it out, did you?" coach Jim Harbaugh said.

When it's Kaepernick and the 49ers facing the Packers, the game is never over. Even in the meat locker that was Lambeau Field, where the temperature at kickoff was 5 degrees, with a wind chill of minus-10.

No sweat for Kaepernick. He went sleeveless, and didn't wear gloves.

"I've played in cold-weather games before," he said. "I feel like it's more mental than anything.'

San Francisco plays at Carolina next Sunday in the divisional round.

Kaepernick threw for 227 yards, including a 28-yard TD pass to Vernon Davis, and ran for another 98, while Michael Crabtree had eight catches for 125 yards for San Francisco.

In a back-and-forth fourth quarter, the 49ers (13-4) threw the final punch. Kaepernick escaped a blitz to get to the 27 with 1:13 left.

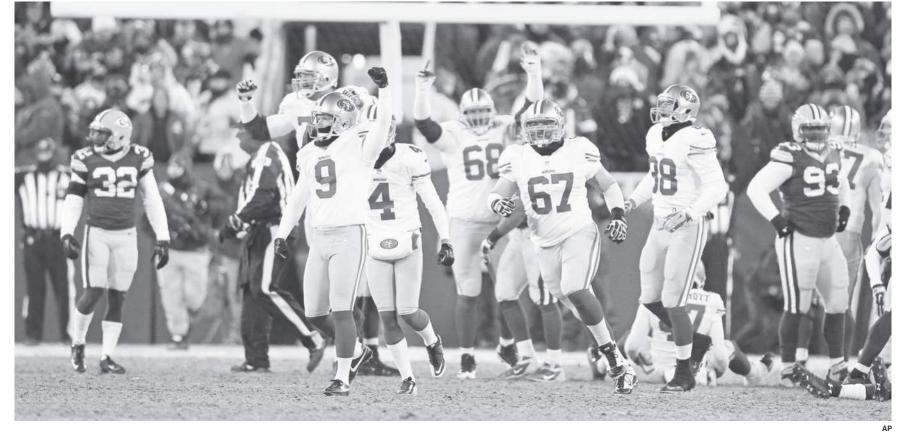
"Just trying to figure out a way to get that first down," Kaepernick said. "Had a play called, we didn't get the look that we wanted. It worked out for us."

Dawson nailed the winning kick five plays later—but only after nearly being blocked by edge rusher Davon House. He was whistled for being offside on the play, but the 49ers declined the penalty with the win in hand.

Mason Crosby's 24-yard field goal tied it at 20 for the Packers (8-8-1) with 5:06 left before the 49ers' final drive.

Until then, Packers quarterback Aaron Rodgers did his best Packers came to an end. to turn into "Captain Comeback" again. After a slow first quarter, Rodgers finished 17 of 26 for 177 yards and touchdown.

"Very disappointing, personally," Rodgers said. "It's frustrating not to play your best game in tough conditions. De-



San Francisco 49ers kicker Phil Dawson (9) pumps his fist after his game-winning field goal in the 49ers' 23-20 win over the Green Bay Packers at the conclusion of an NFL wild-card playoff football game, Sunday, Jan. 5, 2014, in Green Bay, Wis.

fense holds them to 23 points. We should win that game."

Kaepernick connected with a spinning Davis down the seam for a score with 10:39 left. The TD quickly answered John Kuhn's 1-yard run that briefly gave the Packers a four-point lead.

That touchdown was set up after Rodgers, in the clutches of a 49ers defender, somehow managed to escape a sack on fourth-and-2 and found Randall Cobb for a 26-yard gain to the Niners 4.

Eddie Lacy ran for 81 yards on 21 carries for the Packers, while Frank Gore had 66 yards and a touchdown on 20 carries for the 49ers.

But it was Kaepernick who was the difference-maker once again in San Francisco's fourth straight win over Green Bay. He finished 16 of 30 with the touchdown and an interception.

For the second year in a row, the Packers' season has started and ended with losses to the 49ers. The latest edition of what's turned into a chippy and heated rivalry took place on the worn, frozen turf of Lambeau Field.

An injury-filled season for the

A depleted Packers defense—already playing without linebacker Clay Matthews lost two more starters Sunday in cornerback Sam Shields and linebacker Mike Neal—but still managed to hold its own against the Niners.

"I'm just very proud of this team as far as their ability to continue to overcome adversity," coach Mike McCarthy said. "It hit us at every turn, it hit us again today and these guys just keep fighting and fighting."

In a memorable playoff debut last January, Kaepernick ran for a quarterback playoff-record 181 yards and a pair of touchdowns. In the season opener in September, the strong-armed quarterback threw for a careerbest 412 yards and three scores.

This time, he did his damage on the ground and through the air.

Kaepernick tore through the Green Bay defense for a 42yard run, getting a break at one point after House whiffed on a tackle, to set up Gore's 10-yard touchdown run that helped give the 49ers a 13-10 halftime lead.

"It was unbelievable, the way he was getting the edge. I mean, just clutch," Harbaugh said. "Colin Kaepernick, I think we can all agree, is a clutch performer."

Chargers 27, Bengals 10

In Cincinnati, dump it off to the running back, hand it off, let the field goal kicker take it from there.

Philip Rivers didn't have to do a whole lot to get a playoff win. Not with the way San Diego's defense was dominating.

And not with the way Andy Dalton was coming apart in the playoffs again.

The Chargers took advan-

tage of Dalton's three turnovers in the second half on Sunday, pulling away to a 27-10 victory that extended San Diego's lateseason surge and pushed the Bengals' postseason misery to record levels.

With Rivers making accurate throws in the chilling rain, the Chargers (10-7) won their fifth in a row, beating the last team that had knocked them off. They'll play next Sunday in Denver, which has the AFC's top seed.

The Chargers lost at home to the Broncos 28-20 on Nov. 10, then went to Denver and got a rejuvenating 27-20 victory on Dec. 12 that gave them momentum.

"We will be confident," said Rivers, who was 12 of 16 for 128 yards with a touchdown and no interceptions on a rainy, 40-degree afternoon. "We've got to be careful we're not overconfident, which we won't be. Cincinnati came to our place and won five weeks ago."

The Bengals (11-6) won in San Diego 17-10 on Dec. 1, starting their final push toward the AFC North title. They took advantage of three turnovers in that one.

They turned it over four times on Sunday, with Dalton's fumble and two interceptions in the second half leading to one of the most stunning losses in franchise history. The Bengals had been 8-0 at home and brought the NFL's No. 3 defense—their highest-ever play-

off ranking—into the game.

With everything in their favor, they unraveled in the second half, getting outscored

The Bengals now have the sixth-longest streak of playoff futility in NFL history, stretching all the way back to the 1990 season. They've lost their playoff opener three straight years, matching a league record, according to STATS LLC.

"Whatever you do during the regular season doesn't matter once you get to the playoffs," said Dalton, who is 0-3 in the playoffs. "It's disappointing. All the good stuff we did this year, then to come out and not win this game kind of hurts."

Coach Marvin Lewis fell to 0-5 in the playoffs during his 11 seasons as head coach, but is expected to stick around and get another chance to try again.

A lot of it falls on Dalton, who has a trilogy of bad playoff games. He fumbled and threw two interceptions in the second half. Dalton finished 29 of 51 for 334 yards with a below-average passer rating of 67.

The Chargers pressured him in the second half and took adthey didn't turn the ball over ton has thrown one touchdown in a conservative offense that sometimes grated on Rivers but ultimately worked.

"The way our defense was playing, as long as we didn't have a disaster and we made plays when they were there, we were going to win this

"It's a sad day," Padres manager Bud Black said. "We're losing a San Diego

The Padres planned to keep Coleman's statue at Petco Park open until 11:30 p.m. Sunday so fans could pay tribute.

game," Rivers said.

Combined with the Saints' victory over the Eagles on Saturday night, the two No. 6 playoff seeds won for the first time since 2010, when the Packers won the Super Bowl.

And the Chargers are thinking: Why not us?

'We're loose, we're confident, we're peaking at the right time," safety Eric Weddle said. "We are a team to be dealt with. We're a confident bunch, especially in the second half, in the fourth quarter. We feel we're ready for those situations. The pressure is not going to get to us."

This one was a reversal from the last time they met. The Bengals forced three turnovers for their win in San Diego.

The Bengals got the rematch at home, where they had scored 49, 41, 41, 42 and 34 points in their last five regular season games. Their 10 points on Sunday were a season low.

Dalton went 17 of 34 for 170 yards with two interceptions, a fumble and three sacks in the second half. In first-round playoff losses each vantage of his mistakes. And of the past three seasons, Dalpass and six interceptions.

> "We kept Andy on his heels and got him off his spot," Weddle said. "We hit him a bunch and forced big turnovers."

> He wasn't the only one with a big gaffe. Rookie running back Giovani Bernard fumbled at the San Diego 3-yard line after a catch in the first half.

> Rivers completed a teamrecord and NFL-best 69.5 percent of his passes this season for 4,478 yards. He was only 5 of 6 in the first half for 48 yards with San Diego frequently backed inside its 20yard line to start drives.

Yankee, Marine pilot

SAN DIEGO (AP)—Hall of Fame broadcaster Jerry Coleman, a former second baseman for the New York Yankees who interrupted his pro career to fly as a Marine Corps pilot in World War II and Korea, died Sunday, the San Diego Padres

said. He was 89.

four decades with the Padres as a broadcaster. He managed the

team in 1980.

said Coleman died at a hos-

pital Sunday afternoon. He Coleman spent more than said the team was notified by Coleman's wife,

Maggie. family friend told The Associated Padres president Mike Dee Press on Sunday night that Coleman had surgery before

Christmas for bleeding in the brain. Doctors discovered more bleeding last week and Coleman had more surgery, said the friend, who spoke on condition of anonymity due to the sensitive nature of the

icon. He's going to be missed."

Grizzlies dominate 2nd half to beat Pistons, 112-84



AUBURN HILLS, **Mich.** (AP)—The Grizzlies needed one half to figure out the

Memphis Once realized that Detroit couldn't hit a jumper,

the Grizzlies packed the paint on defense and outscored the Pistons by 33 points in the second half on the way to a 112-84

Zach Randolph finished with 16 points and 16 rebounds for Memphis.

"We were struggling against their post players in the first half, so we made an adjustment and really tried to take away the paint," Grizzlies coach David Joerger said. "They were playing zone against us, but Zach was able to get inside and disrupt things, and that opened up some kick-out shots to our 3-point shooters."

Detroit lost its fourth straight and fifth in a row at home. The Pistons are now 4-10 after a 10-10 start.

"This is most definitely an emergency right now," Brandon Jennings said. "It is slipping away from us. You start questioning if everyone is willing to sacrifice and do the things that we need to win games."

Pistons coach Maurice Cheeks met with his players after the game to try to find a solution.

"I'm trying to get some insight from them, and we'll talk more tomorrow," he said. "When things happen like this, and we don't have any ball movement, that's on me. I have to find a way to do that."

Detroit missed 16 of 20 second-half jump shots, managing just 28 points after a 56-point first half. Jennings went 0-for-7

"Right now, for some reason, we're just a first-half team," Jennings said. "We aren't coming out with the same energy in the second half, and we've got to find out why. This is ridiculous right now.'

Memphis got a big game off

LOS ANGELES (AP)—

the bench from second-year player Jon Leuer, who had 23 points and eight rebounds in 21 minutes.

"Jon did a great job last year of honing his game all through the season—he was still working hard in March and April when a lot of players have hit the rookie wall," Joerger said. "This year, he's taken things another step, and you can see where it has paid off. He's got the shot fake that can set up a drive, and he's doing more things off the pick-and-roll."

Memphis had six players in double figures, including 15 from former Piston Tayshaun Prince.

Prince acknowledged that he gets a boost from returning to the building where he won the 2004 championship.

"It's always special," he said. "You always have some incentive to hopefully go out there and get a team win. This team does a great job that when someone is facing their former team, everyone steps up to help them."

Greg Monroe led Detroit with 19 points, while Andre Drummond added 15 points and 14 rebounds. But they combined for only eight points in the second half.

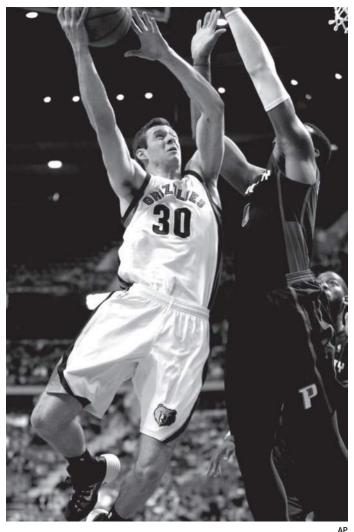
"It definitely hurt playing like that in the second half." Drummond said. "To let them come out and do that - that's definitely tough to swallow."

The Grizzlies continued to alternate wins and losses, going 3-2 in their last five without back-toback victories or defeats.

Both teams were short-handed in the backcourt. Detroit's Rodney Stuckey (shoulder) missed his second straight game, while Tony Allen (hand) was added to a lengthy Memphis injury list.

Warriors 112, Wizards 96

In Washington, Klay Thompson scored 26 points, Stephen Curry and Andrew Bogut connected on a trick play worthy of the NBA's slam dunk contest, and the Golden State Warriors have



Memphis Grizzlies forward Jon Leuer (30) goes to the basket against Detroit Pistons center Andre Drummond (0) during the first half of an NBA basketball game on Sunday, Jan. 5, 2014, in Auburn Hills, Mich.

their longest in-season winning streak since 1975 after Sunday night's 112-96 win over the Washington Wizards.

The Warriors won their ninth in a row by turning the third quarter into a laugher, opening the period with a 30-5 run.

Curry and Thompson topped John Wall and Bradley Beal in the battle of the two highestscoring backcourts in the NBA. Curry scored 14 points on 5-for-17 shooting, but the league's most turnover-prone player had 10 assists and only two giveaways. Thompson was 9 for 14 from the field, including 6 for 9 from 3-point range.

Wall had 14 points and 10 assists, but he shot 4 for 11, including 1 for 5 in the crucial third quarter.

Pacers 82, Cavaliers 78

In Cleveland, Paul George scored 16 points, Roy Hibbert made a putback and two free throws in the final 1:09 and the Indiana Pacers held off Cleveland's late rally for an 82-78 win over the short-handed Cavaliers on Sunday night.

The Pacers led by 16 in the fourth before Dion Waiters brought Cleveland back by scoring 12 points in a 16-1 run that got the Cavs within 75-74 with 3:35 left. Hibbert's free throw with 7.9 seconds left put the Pacers up 81-78, and Indiana got the ball back when Cleveland's Earl Clark stepped out on an inbounds pass 1 second later.

David West made one free throw with 5.4 seconds left, and the Pacers escaped with their seventh win in eight games. At 27-6, Indiana has the NBA's best record.

Waiters scored 21 for the Cavaliers, who played without All-Star point guard Kyrie Irving.

Heat 102, Raptors 97

In Miami, LeBron James scored 30 points, Michael Beasley came off the bench to add 17 and the Miami Heat held on down the stretch to beat the Toronto Raptors 102-97 Sunday night.

Dwyane Wade scored 14 points and Chris Bosh grabbed 11 rebounds for the Heat, who successfully overcame a deficit entering the fourth quarter for the seventh time in 13 tries. Miami was down by five entering the fourth, then opened the final period with a 7-0 run and never trailed again.

DeMar DeRozan scored 26 points on 11 for 19 shooting for Toronto, which was bidding for its first six-game winning streak since April 2007. Amir Johnson and Jonas Valanciunas each scored 17 for the Raptors, who got 14 from Kyle Lowry.

Thunder 119, Celtics 96

In Oklahoma City, Reggie Jackson scored a career-high 27 points, Kevin Durant added 21 points, seven rebounds and eight assists, and the Oklahoma City Thunder halted their homecourt swoon with a 119-96 win over the Boston Celtics on Sunday night.

Serge Ibaka added 17 points and 11 rebounds for Oklahoma City, which had lost three of its previous four home games after starting the season 13-0 at Chesapeake Energy Arena. The Thunder (27-7) have the best record in the Western Conference.

Oklahoma City is 4-2 since All-Star point guard Russell Westbrook had arthroscopic knee surgery on Dec. 27.

Jeff Green and Avery Bradley scored 19 points apiece for Boston, which has lost four straight games and seven of its

Knicks 92, Mavericks 80

In Dallas, Carmelo Anthony scored 15 of his 19 points in the first quarter to jump-start the New York Knicks' 92-80 victory over the Dallas Mavericks on Sunday night.

New York led by as many as 19 points and held off a secondhalf rally that pulled the Mavericks within six. The Knicks went 2-1 on a four-day trip through Texas.

Anthony scored six points during a 12-0 run in the first that gave the Knicks a 24-13 lead. He also had four rebounds, three assists and two steals in the quarter.

Dirk Nowitzki had 18 points and nine rebounds for the Mavericks, who lost their fourth consecutive home game.

Kenyon Martin scored six points in a 1:13 span early in the third quarter that gave New York a 58-39 lead. He had 10 of the Knicks' 15 points in the quarter and finished with a season-high 14.

Nuggets 137, Lakers 115

In Los Angeles, Ty Lawson had 20 points and 12 assists, Timofey Mozgov added 20 points and seven rebounds, and the Denver Nuggets beat the slumping Los Angeles Lakers 137-115 Sunday night for their second straight win after an eight-game skid.

Nate Robinson scored 21 points, while Wilson Chandler and Kenneth Faried added 17 apiece as the Nuggets dropped 77 points on the Lakers in the second half.

Denver emphatically earned a win for coach Brian Shaw in his first game back at Staples Center to face the Lakers as a head coach. The longtime Lakers guard and assistant coach was passed over for the top job in Los Angeles after Phil Jackson's departure.

Pau Gasol had 25 points, 10 rebounds and five assists amid another round of trade rumors with the injury-battered Lakers, who have lost seven of eight.

Kobe hopes fans don't choose him for All-Stars

While Kobe Bryant heals from his latest injury, he has an unusual message for the fans who select the NBA All-Star game's starters: Don't vote for me. After playing just six

in an injury-plagued season, the Los Angeles Lakers' 15-time All-Star guard is hoping fans elect younger, more deserving players to start next month's showcase in New Orleans.

"Even though there's so much respect that comes from me to be able to play for the fans, I'd much rather see the young guys go out there and play in the game," Bryant said before the Lakers faced Denver on Sunday night. "They've obviously put the work in to be there that weekend, so I'd much rather see them go in there and participate."

Bryant also gave a small upin shape while the bone heals, but must exercise patience with several weeks likely to go.

"I'm pretty restricted in terms of what I can do," Bryant said. "So I'm just staying on the bike, keeping it moving and going, keeping the legs strong.'

Few players have more experience in the NBA's midseason exhibition showcase than Bryant, who has been chosen for every All-Star game since missing out as a rookie in 1997. Bryant is a four-time All-Star game MVP and the top scorer in the game's history, passing Michael Jordan in 2012.

date on his recovery from a bro- at all if fans pass on him this from, I really enjoy watching focus on younger players, the ken bone near his left knee. He time, that doesn't look likely what the young guys are doing Damian Lillards of the world, is riding a stationary bike to stay so far: Bryant was the second- and how they're performing." because they're more than deleading vote-getter in the Western Conference in vote totals released by the NBA on Dec. 26 with 723,031 votes, trailing only LeBron James and Kevin Durant in the overall balloting.

"That's obviously a sensitive topic for me personally, because you want to feel like you deserve to be in the game and play," Bryant said. "But then there's the other side of the argument where you've put in a lot of work over the years, and (if) fans vote you in, you want to go out there and show your appreciation and respect to them. I think it's always a delicate bal-

Although he would be honored if he's voted in again, he isn't even sure he'll be ready to play. Bryant only made his season debut Dec. 8, eight months after tearing his Achilles tendon, and he played six games in 10 days before getting hurt again in Memphis, sidelining him until late January at the earliest.

Bryant singled out Portland's Damian Lillard as a player deserving of votes.

"I probably won't be able to come back (to the Lakers) soon enough to be able to make my stamp or be able to make my mark on a game," Bryant said.

Although Bryant won't mind ance, but from where I come "So my advice would be to serving to be out there and playing that weekend."

Bryant was the youngest All-Star starter in NBA history during his second season in 1997-98. He was the All-Star game MVP in 2002, 2007, 2009 and 2011 in Los Angeles.

Bryant also voiced support for Pau Gasol, who has been linked in trade rumors with Cleveland in recent days. Bryant noted Gasol seemingly has been a subject of weekly rumors since shortly after the Lakers won their second straight championship in 2010.

"It's like if he's not in trade discussions, it's not a normal

season," Bryant said of Gasol. "He goes out and just plays. He does a phenomenal job of staying composed, and I'm sure there's a lot of frustration inside of him, but he does a great job of being professional and keeping it in, and going out and playing."

Bryant believes the struggling Lakers still can make a playoff run this season, and he wants Gasol to stay in Los Angeles to help. Bryant also realizes the Lakers probably won't consult him about it.

"How much more am I supposed to support a guy, besides making a Pau flag and riding in there on a horse with Spanish-colored paint on my face like I'm the Spaniard William Wallace or something?" Bryant asked. "I don't know what else to do."

Simpson, with heavy heart, in 3-way tie for lead

KAPALUA, Hawaii (AP)— tion Course. Webb Simpson might have pulled out of the Tournament of Champions to be with his caddie if he were not on an island in the middle of the Pacific.

Reassurance came his caddie and close friend whose newborn son is in inten-

sive care in a Florida hospital.

"Paul sent me a text this morning, just told me he loved me and wanted to go out and fight as hard as I would any other day," Simpson said Sunday after doing just that.

Simpson made four birdies in a five-hole stretch on the back nine at Kapalua for a 5-under 68, giving him a share of the lead with defending champion Dustin Johnson and Jordan Spieth going into the final round Monday on the Planta-

On a glorious day of sun and surf, Simpson played with a heavy heart.

His caddie and friend, Paul Tesori, was in a hospital in Flor-

ida with newborn son from Paul Tesori, HYLINDRI Isaiah in intensive Tournament of care. Simpson said the child suffered a seizure shortly after

he was born with indications of an infection in his brain. One of Tesori's best friends in the business is Ted Scott, the caddie for Bubba Watson, who is filling in this week as Simpson's caddie. Tesori tweeted that he tuned into the telecast at Kapalua in time to see his son's name on Scott's hat.

"I felt like we were out there playing for Isaiah," Simpson said. "Paul needs something to watch there in the hospital. It's been a long few days, so hope-



Webb Simpson drives off the 18th tee box during the third round of the Tournament of Champions golf tournament, Sunday, Jan. 5, 2014, in

Rodman's ex-NBA team heads to North Korea for game

BEIJING (AP)—Dennis Rodman said Monday he wants to show that North Korea isn't so bad, as he took a team of former NBA players on a trip for an exhibition game on Kim Jong Un's birthday.

The flamboyant Hall of Famer headed to the North Korean capital from Beijing with a squad of a dozen former basketball stars including Vin Baker and Cliff Robinson in what Rodman calls "basketball diplomacy," although U.S. officials have criticized his efforts.

"It's about trying to connect two countries together in the world, to let people know that: Do you know what? Not every country in the world is that bad, especially North Korea," Rodman told The Associated Press in an interview outside his hotel before heading to the Beijing airport with the team.

"People say so many negative things about North Korea. And I want people in the world to see it's not that bad."

The U.S. is at odds with North Korea over its nuclear

ranked Caitlyn Portela, who

swept her first two opponents,

but had her winning streak

snapped by the CNMI junior

player. Lee notched a 6-2 vic-

tory in the opening set to boost

her finals bid and completed the

upset with an impressive 6-0

Today's finals will be a duel

between two players who have

yet to drop a single set in the

tournament. Gilmour, who

drew a bye in the first round,

blanked Camila Bassi Felix-

win in the second.

weapons program, and Rodman has been faulted for not talking about North Korea's human rights record, described as one of the world's worst by activists, the U.S. State Department and North Korean defectors.

The defectors have repeatedly testified about the government's alleged use of indiscriminate killings, rapes, beatings and prison camps holding as many as 120,000 people deemed opponents of authoritarian leader Kim Jong

Vonarx in the second, 6-0, 6-0; swept No. 7 seed Charlie Hargreaves in the quarterfinals, 6-1, 6-1; and topped fourth-ranked Keona Mendis in the upper bracket semifinals, 6-3, 6-0.

Meanwhile, two other CNMI players also competed in the Post Margaret Court Cup and survived the qualifying tournament to make it to the main

Chris Cajigan gained entry to the main draw after prevailing over Fiji's Krishhan Un, the third generation of his family to rule.

The U.S. players are to compete in an exhibition game against a North Korean team on Wednesday, Kim's birthday.

"Somehow we have to get along, and no matter what disagreements or what discrepancy we have in life," Rodman said. "It's like saying: Why do we have the Olympics? When everyone one comes together in the Olympics, there's no problems. That's what I'm doing. That's all I'm doing."

Raju, 6-2, 6-2, and Australia's Bailey Thompson, 6-0, 6-0, in the qualifier for the boys U16 singles. In the main draw, Cajigan was pitted against the top-ranked Nelson Loso and pulled off one of the biggest upsets in the tournament. The 15-year-old player bagged a 6-4 triumph in the opening set and then eked out a nail-biting 7-6 win in the second to eliminate his favored foe. However, Cajigan was also shown the exit door in the next round after

back nine. bowing to Andres Urrego Va-

fully, we gave him something

good to see on TV. But it was

tough. I was thinking about him

Winning on Monday won't

Simpson was the first to reach

14-under 205, thanks to a terrific

par save on the 17th and a long

two-putt par on the 18th hole, a

par 5 with a front hole location

that made it difficult to get close

because the green and the grain

Spieth, the 20-year-old Texan

who looks just as good as he

did during a sensational rookie

season, got back into the mix

with a tough birdie on the par-3

eighth and capped off a 69 with

a 15-foot birdie putt on the 17th

and a long two-putt for par on

Spieth won the John Deere

Classic last year. This is his first

time with at least a share of the

"This is a new position for

me," Spieth said. "I've never

slept on a 54-hole lead. I'm ex-

cited about it and it's going to

be a fun time tomorrow to get

to play with Webb for the third

The most intimidating fig-

ure is Johnson, whose power is

suited for the Plantation Course.

Johnson also had a 69 and was

disappointed at playing the par

5s in 3-under for the day. One of

them was a tap-in eagle on the

par-5 ninth. But he had to settle

for pars on the long holes on the

move sharply away.

the 18th.

54-hole lead.

time this week."

ron, 3-6, 1-6.

a lot out there."

In the boys U12 singles, Michael Ren defeated Max Morton, 6-0, 6-1, in the qualifying tournament to get a slot on the main draw. Ren went on to drop his opening match in the main draw, losing to Alex Kevill, 0-6, 0-6.

The three CNMI players are in Australia as part of the Pacific Oceania ITF Touring Team and will be competing in another tournament later this week

15, Travilla 14, Javier 14, J. her 18, as the second-leading scorer on the squad—Lily Palero 4.

Wrecking Balls 43 -Abrams 18, Williams 6, Reyes 5, Alegre 4, Lebria 4, Ito 3, Samson 2.

Scoring by halves: 22-20, 47-43

Third Game

Rollers 3 54 – Morales 23, Francisco 13, Cruz 11, Rios 3, De Luna 2.

Rollers 2 43 - Darag 11, Espinosa 8, Mangalo 8, Capuyon 8, Fidelino 8.

Scoring by halves: 25-22,

100m butterfly mixed 50m breaststroke, mixed 8U 25m backstroke, mixed 100m backstroke. mixed 50m butterfly, mixed 8U 25m freestyle, mixed

One shot hit the front of the green and rolled off the putting surface on the 15th and into a valley. On the 18th, his 4-iron came up short and left him a pitch that had to be perfect. It was a few inches from that. The pitch didn't have enough roll to glide with the grain and left him a 15-foot birdie chance that he missed.

"Other than that, I played pretty good," Johnson said.

No matter. He's still tied for the lead, still in good position to start the new year the same way he did in 2013.

Zach Johnson, who had a three-shot lead going into the third round, couldn't make anything and shot a 74. His only birdie was a two-putt on the par-5 fifth hole. Still, he was only two shots behind at 12-under 207 heading into the Monday finish.

Instead of building his lead, Zach Johnson effectively gave more players in this winnersonly field a chance.

Gary Woodland (67), PGA champion Jason Dufner (69), Brandt Snedeker (69) and Kevin Streelman, who had a 33 on the back nine to salvage a 70, were within three shots of the lead. Masters champion Adam Scott wasted a chance to join them.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

NBA STANDINGS

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Atlantic Division

	W	L Pct	GB
Toronto	16	16 .500	_
Boston	13	21 .382	4
Brooklyn	12	21 .364	41/2
Philadelphia	12	21 .364	41/2
New York	11	22 .333	51/2

Southeast Division

26	8 .765	_
18	16 .529	8
14	17 .452	101/2
15	20 .429	111/2
10	23 .303	151/2
	18 14 15	18 16 .529 14 17 .452 15 20 .429

Central Division

IIIuIuIIu	LI	0 .010	_
Chicago	14	18 .438	121/2
Detroit	14	20 .412	131/2
Cleveland	11	23 .324	161/2
Milwaukee	7	26 .212	20

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Journa	C 3	PIA12	1011
San Antonio	26	8 .765	_
Houston	22	13 .629	41/2
Dallas	19	15 .559	7
New Orleans	15	17 .469	10
Memphis	15	18 .455	101/2

Northwest Division

Oklahoma City	27	7 .794	_
Portland	26	8 .765	1
Denver	16	17 .485	101/2
Minnesota	16	17 .485	101/2
Utah	11	25 .306	17

Pacific Division

Golden State	23	13 .639	_
L.A. Clippers	23	13 .639	-
Phoenix	20	12 .625	1
L.A. Lakers	14	20 .412	8
Carramonto	10	22 212	- 11

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

LEE

From Page 28

Then in the second round, Lee earned another straight set victory against the No. 3 seed Hana Kim, 6-2, 6-2, to advance to the quarterfinals. In the Round of 8, he faced another ranked foe and labored a 7-5 triumph over the No. 6 pick Mia Repac in the opening set before cruising to a 6-1 win in the second to keep her perfect record.

Next up for Lee was second-

ROLLERS

From Page 28

With its 2-1 card, FTMP is now in a tie for second place with Rollers 1. Completing the field are Rollers 4 (1-2), Dream Team (0-2), and Rollers 5 (0-3).

Tristan Montes and Jason Lampkin teamed up in the victory, as they combined for 32 points. Montes scored 8 of FTMP's last 12 points and made fastbreak layups that helped his team keep its distance against Rollers 4. Montes finished with a team-high 18 points, while Lampkin had 14, including 6 straight points that gave FTMP more cushion.

FTMP was only ahead by a hair, 35-34, off Ivan Sanarez's drive when Lampkin hit three straight point-blanked shots for good measure.

Hula Girls 47, Wrecking Balls 43

In the girls division, Hula Girls closed out the first round of the double-round robin contest with a perfect record, following a 4-point win over Wrecking Balls.

Hula Girls took the solo spot with its 3-0 card, while Wrecking Balls (2-1) slid to second. Futball (1-2) and Tappers (0-3) rounded out the field.

Irish Pagarao anchored Hula Girls' victory, drilling successive baskets in the homestretch. She made the team's last 7 points to counter the string of baskets of Wrecking Balls' Rachel Abrams. Abrams had 6 of her team's final 8 markers.

Pagarao ended with a teamhigh 15 points and got enough help from two teammates, as Jan Travilla and Marie Javier chipped in 14 each. Abrams was the lone double figure scorer for Wrecking Balls with

First Game

points.

FTMP 53 – Montes 18, Lampkin 14, Francisco 8, Sanarez 6, Omengkar 4, Dantic

Williams—was limited to 6

Rollers 4 49 – Kwon 19, Deocares 8, Santos 6, Toves 4, Sagun 4, Bucayo 4, Ellama 2.

Scoring by halves: 24-23, 53-49.

Second Game

Hula Girls 47 - Pagarao

breaststroke category, Tsunami Saipan is pinning its hopes on Nagata, while the club will rely

> on Suzuki in freestyle events. "Natsuki and Kana will go to Guam to gain experience which will help them in future tournaments this season,"

Kimura said.

in Guam's short course competition. The list includes the mixed 200m IM, 100m breaststroke, mixed 8U 25m butterfly, mixed 100m freestyle, mixed 50m backstroke, mixed

TSUNAMI

From Page 28

Aleksenko is Tsunami Saipan's other bet in freestyle races and Kimura hopes the 8-year-old swimmer uses his great athletic ability to record an impressive

performance in Guam and other competitions.

In the girls division, Kimura considers Watanabe and Dangol as future record holders. The two swimmers will be competing in individual medley and freestyle races. In the

Fifteen events are lined up

8U 25m breaststroke, mixed 100m IM, mixed 50m freestyle, and mixed 100m freestyle relay.

SAIPAN TRIBUNE TUESDAY, JANUARY 7, 2014 **27**

2013 U13 Co-ed Christmas Futsal Tournament Part 1



Golden Boot awardees Sunjoon Tenorio and Guinevere Borja of Fake Madrid pose with their medals during the awards ceremony for the 2013 U13 Co-ed Christmas Futsal Tournament last Saturday at the TSL Sports Complex.



Fake Madrid and Astig Futsal players shake hands after their title match. Astig Futsal won, 2-1.



Astig Futsal huddles after winning the finale against Fake Madrid.



Astig Futsal, left, and Fake Madrid players battle for possession.



James Ermitano anticipates the ball.



Kanoa Mighty Orange players and coach Raphael Zapanta pose with their sportsmanship award.



Foot Loose players and their coach, second right, pose for a photo.



Coach Ruselle Zapanta, second left, talks to his players after the



Fake Madrid players and coach Ruselle Zapanta, right, pose for a team photo.

28 TUESDAY, JANUARY 7, 2014

Saipan Tribune SDOTTS



SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Lee barges into finals in Australia



By ROSELYN B. MONROYO roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com

he CNMI's Carol Lee marched into the finals of the girls U12 singles event in the 2014 Australia Post Margaret Court Cup.

stunned three seeded

foes over the weekend to take the finals berth in the bottom half of the 24-player field. Lee will be battling the girls U12 singles tiara

against top-ranked Kelly Gilmour of Australia today at 10am

The 11-year-old junior player (9am Saipan time) at the Albury Grasscourts in Albury, New South Wales.

> The Commonwealth bet started her campaign in the Post Margaret Court Cup with an outstanding 6-0, 6-0 win over Victoria's Alex Freire.

See LEE on Page 26

Rollers 3 gains share of lead



ROSELYN B. MONROYO

FTMP's Tristan Montes goes up for a shot against Rollers 4's Antonio Santos during the second half of their game in the Sun Palace holiday caging last Saturday at the Gillette Multipurpose Gymnasium.

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com REPORTER

Rollers 3 drew a solid game from Christian Morales to outclass Rollers 2, 64-53, in the boys division game in the 2013 Sun Palace Christmas Basketball Tournament last Saturday night at the Gillette Multipurpose Gymnasium.

With the victory, Rollers 3 now has a 3-1 record, sharing the top spot with Rollers 2.

Morales scored a game-high 23 points, as his guns went blazing in the first half. He nailed 6 of Rollers 3's first 9 points and went on to finish the half with 17 to lift his team to a 25-22 lead. Morales canned two triples in the first half, matching Jun Fidelino's mark. Rollers 2 got contributions from four more players to keep Rollers 3 within striking distance.

However, in the second half, Rollers 3 began widening the gap with Wilfredo Francisco

and Jethro Cruz backing up Morales. Cruz, who was scoreless in the first half, converted three triples and added two free throws to his credit, while Francisco also dropped all his 13 markers in the second half.

As for Rollers 2, it drew only a pair of charities from Fidelino in the second half and had only

> Sam Darag providing some life to the team's dying chances of keeping the solo lead. Darag scored 9 of his team-high 11 points in the second and clearly

missed the support of some key players who either missed last weekend's game or were off night. Rollers 2 was without Kobe Mendoza and failed to get contributions from Ted Vivero, Joel Subang, and Mike Cenir.

FTMP 53, Rollers 4 49

In the other boys division game, Funky Town Monkey Pimps gained its second straight win after thwarting Rollers 4.

See ROLLERS on Page 26

8 Tsunami Saipan bets off to Guam



The eight Tsunami Saipan swimmers heading to Guam this weekend pose for a photo before their training session at the Kan Pacific Swimming Pool last week.

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Eight Tsunami Saipan Swimming Center members are leaving Saipan this weekend to compete in the Guam Short Course Championships in Hagatna.

Representing Tsunami Saipan in the 25-meter race are Hans Xu, Anthony Deleon Guerrero. Arman Rechuch-

er, Isaiah Aleksenko, Nanaka Watanabe, Ashley Dangcol, Natsuki Nagata, and Kana Suzuki. All swimmers are in the 8-and-under age group and Tsunami Saipan decided on giving its young swimmers the opportunity to compete in the short course to improve their times.

"It (tournament) will be a big challenge to them and a great opportunity to get faster," Tsunami Saipan head coach Hiro Kimura said in an email to Saipan Tribune.

Xu and Deleon Guerrero are Tsunami Saipan's top bets in the backstroke and freestyle races, respectively. Kimura added that with the way Xu and Deleon Guerrero performed in the past

tournaments, it Tsunami will not surprise him if they may

break Ryuyo Yanai and Lukas Kang's records in the boys U8 age group.

Rechucher will take charge of Tsunami Saipan's bid in the breaststroke events and Kimura said the 7-year-old's diligence in practice sessions will help him have a fruitful swim in Guam and in the coming tournaments.

See TSUNAMI on Page 26